

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

2018

Volume 65

December 2018

No. 10

## Calendar

Thurs, Dec 6	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Meeting, 10 am, Town Office	Mon., Dec 17	Art at Penn Place, new exhibit, Glenn Roberts, until Jan 12
Fri. Dec 7	Open House/Goodbye for Gene Swearingen, Town Office, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, 3 – 6 pm; Holiday Singalong, Town Hall, 7:30 pm	Thurs. Dec 20	GPJams, 8 pm, Town Hall
Sat., Dec 8	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place; Children’s Singalong with George Oakley, 3 pm; <b>Santa comes to Town</b> , 3:45pm, Town Hall	Sat., Dec. 22	Farmers Market, 9 am – 12 pm, Penn Place
Mon. Dec 10	Town Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Town Hall	Sun., Dec 23	Art at Penn Place, Glenn Roberts, Meet the Artist Reception, 3 –5 pm, Penn Place
Tues. Dec 11	Lunch Bunch, 12:30 pm, Town Hall	Tues., Dec 25	Town Office Closed
Fri. Dec. 14	Film Society Presents: Love and Friendship, Dinner 7 pm, Film 8 pm	Sat., Dec 29	Farmers Market, 9 am – 12 pm, Penn Place
Sat., Dec 15	Farmers Market, 9 am – 12 pm, Penn Place; GIVES 9 am – 12 pm , PO Lobby	Sat., Jan 5	<b>Large Item Pickup</b> ; Farmers Market, 9 am – 12pm, Penn Place

## Town Council Meeting Notes

The November 19, 2018 town council meeting involved a long agenda and a number of decisions. On arrival, your reporter was surprised to see town resident Grant Peacock (a professional videographer) present with a large tripod and big video camera. Councilmember Schulp provided the explanation at the beginning of the meeting, announcing a pilot project in doing a video recording of the meeting for the benefit of town residents unable to attend who might want to watch. If this pilot project goes well, the hope is to provide live streaming rather than just a recording. During the meeting, there was considerable fiddling as councilmembers tended to be too close or too far from their microphones, keeping Grant pretty busy. Stay tuned for updates on how this experiment turns out.

Mayor Kacky began with a few comments, noting the successful start of the new Communications Committee and the smooth process

of selecting a new Town Manager. She praised Councilmember Welch’s leadership role in guiding the hiring process. Her opening comments were followed by a single citizen’s presentation, by Dick Pratt, thanking Councilmember Welch for her hard work on the Wells Park project. He described the park as fabulous (an assessment with which your reporter heartily agrees).

The business of the night began with quick and easy approval of the agenda for the evening, as well as approval of the draft minutes from the October meeting and the one from the July meeting. July? Readers may recall that the initial draft of those minutes had not been approved by the Council. This time, the revised draft minutes were approved unanimously, suggesting that the mayor and council are now on the same wavelength concerning how minutes should be written.

Four action items were on the agenda, beginning with the issue of hiring a new town manager. After a search process extending over the past several months, the decision on who to hire is now over and the unanimous decision announced: Andrea Fox will

*Continued next page*

be the new manager. She has extensive experience in local government management, and comes to us from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), where she has been deputy director of global programs. The switch from Gene to Andrea will occur December 7. Gene will stay on as a consultant for a few weeks to help Andrea get up to speed.

The second action item was the appointment of Andrew Fidler to the Arboretum Committee. This action was quickly moved and approved unanimously.

The third action item was the only one generating disagreement. Town Manager Swearingen announced that he and the mayor determined that the two full-time town maintenance employees are insufficient to cope with the many maintenance issues in town. Their decision was to hire George Miller, following successful completion of recent contract work. He runs a small maintenance/repair firm in Garrett Park (Custom Contractors) and his firm had a contract with the town to deal with some of the maintenance issues (mainly building maintenance—carpentry, electrical, plumbing and such items). If hired, he would close down the firm to be a full-time employee of the town. So, the mayor and town manager were asking the council to approve this hiring decision. All council members expressed surprise that they had not been previously informed or consulted on this process. The mayor indicated that this was just routine hiring decision in her area of jurisdiction since the council had approved a maintenance crew of three a number of years ago (with the third position vacant for the past couple years). Council members noted that a conscious decision not to replace the previous person had been made at the time the previous person left, with George Miller's firm plus individual work by electricians and plumbers filling the void. While Council members weren't necessarily opposed to hiring someone, they wanted more information before making a decision. The town manager indicated that recently work has been slipping behind, so that a third full-time employee would be helpful in dealing with the growing backlog of maintenance projects (as well as serving as an inspector of work down by outside firms). While agreeing that this might be the case, councilmembers pointed out this is a rather major spending decision—moving Mr. Miller from the \$10,000 contracting fee his firm was receiving to a salary, for example, of \$80,000. After lengthy discussion, the outcome was to postpone the hiring decision until the town manager could supply the council with numbers on what costs currently being paid to the Miller firm plus individual professionals would be now be covered by a new full-time employee. The result was that the council chose not to vote on the hiring decision at this time. But armed with the requested cost information, the council will take this issue up at the December meeting.

The final action item concerned whether Garrett Park should participate in a Montgomery County government pilot program on “dockless bikes.” The county has been running a pilot project in Takoma Park, but wants to do a second pilot in other locations. Town manager Swearingen noted that

Kensington has opted out, that the operation seems to have some kinks in it, and that should the county move beyond the pilot we could join at that time. After some discussion the council agreed unanimously to stay out of the pilot program.

Now the meeting moved on to a lengthy list of discussion items, beginning with the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project. On the day of the council meeting, the mayor had been on a conference call with both the State Highway Authority (SHA) and the Federal Highway Authority (FHWA)—a first for both agencies to be on the same call concerning this project. The issue was the unfinished process of handling historic preservation questions. In September and October, the town has been working on producing a matrix or catalogue of comments from “consulting parties” (individuals or organizations taking a position on the historic preservation issues) and the town's response to them. Actually, it would take a paragraph or two to explain this process, but hopefully this summarizes it reasonably well. FHWA now wants that catalogue by the end of November, in part because the person responsible for reviewing it at FHWA is going on an extended holiday break from the middle of December and wants to finish this up by that time. A couple people in the audience were doubtful about the comprehensive nature of individual pieces of this catalogue, but the mayor emphasized that that what FHWA really needs is input from the town on common issues across the range of individual contracting party comments. Assuming this timeline holds mid-December will bring an end to this process, which has been dragging on for a long time.

Other discussion items require less explanation. Town Manager Swearingen reported on a project to re-level the sidewalk on Waverly from Penn Place to Montrose. That work should take place the week after Thanksgiving. Councilmember Schulp reported that the Traffic and Parking Committee has begun looking at questions of where to establish parking/no parking areas (e.g. looking at the area from Wells Park to Penn Place). Councilmember Paczkowski was pleased with the sizable response to the questionnaire about Town Hall renovation ideas and preferences. Councilmember McClintock reported that the arboretum survey process is ongoing, but may conclude in about three more weeks. Councilmember Wegner reported that decision on which pieces of road in town to repave during 2019 is still pending.

Town manager Swearingen then made his monthly report: expenditures and receipts are running as budgeted, so all is well on that front. He also reported on a meeting he and the mayor had with the head of Montgomery Police concerning patrols in Garrett Park (in response to resident Chau's concerns over robbery, plus the rash of car vandalism in recent weeks). Result: the police will make random patrols through the town. Mayor Kacky noted that the commander provided data showing that Garrett Park has a low incidence of crime relative to other parts of the county, but that people need to report vandalism to the police so they can get a better picture of what is happening around the county. And he noted that some criminals are photographing houses and sending the pictures with location information to

confederates, so citizens should report suspicious individuals taking pictures. This prompted a response from town resident Alison Pearce, who noted that crime is very low in Garrett Park and that we should not go around being suspicious of strangers or people who look different.

The final discussion item was Councilmember Joanna Welch’s resignation letter, effective immediately. She vacated her seat and then the council announced the result of the process to replace her (to serve the remaining time in her tenure—May 2019). Although not required to do so by the town charter, the council sought volunteers via the listserv. Despite the very short notice, five people put their names up for consideration, a display of civic interest that pleased councilmember McClintock. Of these names, the council picked Dan Simons (10704 Weymouth). We are sorry to see Joanna step down—recall the words of praise for her work on both Wells Park and the hiring of a new town manager at the beginning of this report. But we also welcome Dan aboard and wish him well in his new role as a town councilmember until May or longer should he run successfully for election at that time. With his swearing in the meeting adjourned.

The **Garrett Bugle** is a newsletter publication by the Citizens Association of Garrett Park and published 10 times a year. Publication is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Articles, ads and other content for the *Garrett Bugle* can be emailed to [garrettbugle@gmail.com](mailto:garrettbugle@gmail.com)\*

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\*Editor and staff reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned Letters to the Editor will not be printed.

## Town Manager’s Notes

Good-bye Garrett Park

I will be leaving the Town Manager’s position on Friday, December 7. Working here has been a very interesting and enjoyable experience. Interesting because of the many unique people I have met and challenges the town has had. Enjoyable because everyone has been so kind and easy to work with. After nearly 40 years of local government experience I can honestly say the Garrett Park has been my favorite place to work.

Part of the experience has been the opportunity to work with many committed elected officials over the nearly six years I have worked here. Another part of the experience has been the Town staff. Elizabeth, Butch and Frank are the most dedicated employees I have ever known and have made my job much more manageable!

The new Town Manager, Andrea Fox, will be a

welcome and wonderful asset to the Town. I wish her well and will always be willing to help her if needed.

Thank you to everyone in Garrett Park! I will miss you and think of you often.

Gene Swearingen

## Citizens Association Notes

### Help Wanted

The Bugle needs your help! We are looking for volunteers who are able and willing to help with the layout and formatting of the Bugle. No editing or writing will be required but you must have Microsoft Word on your computer and must be familiar using it. The time commitment is approximately 1.5 hours per month (and less frequent if we have more than one volunteer). If you are a town resident and a regular reader of the Bugle, please consider helping out. If interested, please email the CA President at [darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com](mailto:darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com) or the Bugle Editor at [garrettbugle@gmail.com](mailto:garrettbugle@gmail.com).

### Town Dinner

The 2019 Town Dinner, presented by the Garrett Park Citizens Association, is on **Saturday, January 26, 2019**. The theme for this year is “Kitchen Disasters.” Bring your stories about baking gone wrong, cooking calamity and that one time you misread the recipe. The doors of the Town Hall (Kenilworth Avenue) will open at 6:00pm and we will sit down at 6:30pm. As always, this is a pot luck dinner. Please bring one of the following: appetizer, salad and bread, main dish, or dessert (enough for 8 to 10 people). We will provide disposable plates/forks/knives. However, as an environmentally-friendly alternative, please consider bringing your own reusable plates, silverware, and serving utensils. Please RSVP to Sean ([sconlan@gmail.com](mailto:sconlan@gmail.com)) or Darshini ([darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com](mailto:darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com)) and let us know what you’ll be bringing. Alcoholic beverages will not be provided, however, please feel free to BYOB. A fee of **\$5/per person** will be collected at the door to cover the cost of decorations, non-alcoholic drinks, and paper goods. This is a convenient time to pay your annual CA dues (\$15 for individual or \$25 per family) and we’ll be voting for this year’s slate of CA officers (see below). Please invite your neighbors and friends who haven’t been to a town dinner. The Citizens Association is nothing without you!

### CA Elections in January

The 2019 CA elections will be held during the 2019 Town Dinner on January 26. The current CA President and CA Secretary will be stepping down from their official roles and therefore, we are specifically looking for enthusiastic individuals who are willing to step up and fill those roles. Nominations for other CA roles (VP and Treasurer) are welcome as well.

CA Dues

The annual CA fees for 2019 will be due in January. The fee is \$25 for individuals and \$25 per family. These dues go towards paying for the Bugle printing, and the annual CA events such as the July 4<sup>th</sup> cookout, Wine Tasting, and Spooky Woods. If you are planning on attending the Town Dinner in January, you can pay your dues then or you can mail your check to the GPCA at PO BOX 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Save the Date - Santa is Coming to Garrett Park Sat. 12/8!**  
*He's making his list...and coming to Garrett Park Town Hall!*

**When: Saturday December 8, 2018**  
**3:00 pm** - Sing along with George Oakley, Garrett Park neighbor and entertainer of all ages!

**3:45 pm** - Santa makes his appearance! Bring your list and tell Santa what you'd like for Christmas! This is a great photo opportunity.

**Santa departs once he visits with all children in line**, so please arrive early to have time to visit!

As always, snack donations (cookies, chips, bite-sized goodies) are welcome. If you'd like to help coordinate this event, please contact Jean Horan at [philpub1@aol.com](mailto:philpub1@aol.com).

*Sponsored by the GP Women's Club*

GIVES

GIVES Warm Coat Drive, Dec. 1-15

GIVES will be collecting warm coats for Thrive DC at the Garrett Park Post Office from Dec. 1-15. All clean, lightly used coats gratefully accepted. Look for the large box in the lobby. From noon - 1pm on Dec. 15th, come meet Alicia Horton, Exec Director of ThriveDC, who will be at the P.O. to say hello and personally thank the town for its generosity.

The GIVES Soup Supper on Nov. 4 was both a good time and a successful fundraiser. Generous neighbors contributed \$1071 in lieu of spending that money on dinner. Since 2016, through the power of small contributions and the efforts of volunteers who sit at the P.O. and Farmers Market, Garrett Park has been able to give a total of \$14,000 to Thrive DC and Stepping Stones Shelter. Something to feel very good about!

Historic Preservation Committee

House Tour of Richterville

Following the recently-published history of Garrett Park's mid-century modern Richterville, "Ranches in

Redsville," the Historic Preservation Committee will sponsor a tour of Garrett Park homes designed by the Town's own Alexander Richter. The tour will be on Saturday, May 4, 2019 starting at noon, rain or shine. Mark your calendars now and look for more information soon!

Full story on the Town website:  
[www.garrettparkmd.gov/home/showdocument?id=1165](http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/home/showdocument?id=1165)

Town Hall Renovation

The Committee appreciates all the comments and suggestions made regarding the Town Hall renovation. During the October 6th Open House / Charrette, residents were invited to submit surveys with their views. The Committee was impressed by both the number and quality of suggestions. Our next step is to generate a summary of the surveys for the Council. We appreciate the effort that so many residents put into their responses.

Town Resident Contributions

What We're Cooking

*Baked Ziti with Spinach and Tomatoes* (from Bon Appetite, found here:  
<https://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/baked-ziti-with-spinach-and-tomatoes-2609>

*As the weather gets cooler, this is one of our go to recipes for entertaining.*

- Ingredients:
- 3/4 lb. hot Italian sausages, casings removed
  - 1 medium onion, chopped
  - 3 large garlic cloves, chopped
  - 1 28-oz can diced peeled tomatoes
  - 1/4 c purchased pesto sauce
  - 10 oz ziti or penne pasta, freshly cooked
  - 8 c spinach leaves (about 2/3 of a 10 oz package)
  - 6 oz mozzarella cheese
  - 1 c grated parmesan cheese (about 3 oz)

Directions:  
Heat heavy large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add sausage, onion, and saute until sausage is cooked through, breaking up meat with back of spoon, about 10 minutes. Add tomatoes with juices to pan. Simmer until sauce thickens slightly, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes. Stir in pesto. Season sauce with salt and pepper (Can be prepared 1 day ahead. Cover and refrigerate. Bring to simmer before continuing.)

Preheat oven to 375. Lightly oil 13 X 9 glass baking dish. Combine pasta, spinach, mozzarella and 1/3 c. parmesan cheese in large bowl. Stir in hot tomato sauce. Transfer mixture to prepared baking dish. Sprinkle remaining 2/3 c parmesan cheese over. Bake until sauce bubbles and cheeses melt, about 30 minutes.

Submmited by Nikki Forry



# Bugle Notes - Sweet and Sour

## ♪ Holiday Seasoning

Recently, a colleague asked how my family celebrates the holidays, and it got me thinking about all the things I enjoy about the festive season. For me, it's a time of togetherness. Of cozy, padded slipper socks. Memories of drinking mulled wine and seeing the magical crystal blue Oxford Street lights in London. It's the eggnog that we always buy...and that we never drink before it goes rancid. This year, I found myself sipping a negroni (my new favorite holiday cocktail) at the St. Regis, feeling transported back in time. It's hearing "Last Christmas" on a loop at department stores and wondering why did the person in the song give George's heart away? And the very next day? (Certainly, *I* wouldn't have...Well.). It's also a time of multiple birthdays in my family—my brother's and as of last year, my son's. I am so looking forward to taking my not-so-newborn to Zoo Lights this year. I've always made it a point not to skip out on work Christmas parties. I particularly recall one at the start of my professional life at The Carter Center, and my co-worker and I left our offices to go to the party and who else did we run into besides President Carter himself—who told us we looked beautiful. Then there are the inevitable White Elephant parties where you end up with a back scratcher when you had brought a good gift (liquor, of course). That enveloping feeling of warmth and spice when I sip my first gingerbread latte...is something I wait for every year.

Submitted by Kavitha Rath

## Letter to the Editor

Having read statements relating to the Town Council meeting of November 19, 2018, I wish to comment. If what I am reading now was available to the residents in the early days when this sidewalk venture was first presented, it would have been "dead on arrival." That "....sufficient funding provided for....the shared grant program," is mentioned as though it was always part of the program, is an insult to those of us who have asserted that the grant amount is not even close to that which will be required. If this project were being built on exclusively Town owned property, I would demand that the Town incorporate in the cost a contingency of 15% for the 'unknown' costs to be paid. However, the reality of the situation is that the Town is required to interface with 20 "unhappy clients," you need to double the contingencies in order to accommodate necessary change orders. Therefore, 30% contingencies should be included, or no deal.

If the financial viability of this venture were dependent on the bid price, plus a contingency of 30%, as a "condition precedent agreement," then the Council could be viewed as performing their fiduciary duty. Anything short of that would be irresponsible. Also, should all the green lights go on, and the project is set to commence, the Council should pledge to meet with the residents a year later for a "retrospective" of their actions. At this retrospective the Council would be asked to address:

December 2018

1. Did the project meet cost projections?
2. How was safety enhanced, and what percentage of the pedestrians use the sidewalks?
3. Was the historic character of the Town diminished, or improved, by this project?

My guess is that you will not be pleased.

George C. Martin, Jr.  
(4513 Oxford Street; across the street from the proposed sidewalk)

**Come say good-bye and congratulate Town Manager**  
**Gene Swearingen on his retirement!**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
**Friday, December 7, 3 – 6 pm**  
**Town Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Penn Place**

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## Letter from the Mayor

During this Thanksgiving holiday, it's especially relevant to remind ourselves of how fortunate we are to be living in this wonderful Town of Garrett Park. When our Town Manager (Gene Swearingen) and I met with Commander Liquorie (County Police, 2nd District) last week about increasing police patrols in Town, the Commander said the same thing. During these targeted patrols, his officers will also be able to issue citations for illegal parking and speeding violations. Hopefully, these efforts will further enhance the livability of our Town.

We live in a beautiful arboretum, one that takes constant upkeep and vigilance. The Arboretum Committee, chaired by Michael Spekter, helps provide this oversight and set priorities. Councilmember Jane McClintock is the Council liaison and, with Michael and Committee members, selected a vendor to conduct an inventory of our Town trees (within the Town right of way) and develop a longer-term, Town-wide tree plan. You may have seen two women pulling a wagon of sundry items through Town. They are marking our trees with small metal tags and documenting them for our tree inventory. It's great to see our tax dollars being put to good use.

Just as we take care of our arboretum, we also must take care of our grounds and buildings. Our maintenance crew, Butch and Frank, spend long hours tending to our grounds and helping to maintain our historical buildings. But it's more than a two-person job. As I mentioned in our Town Council meeting this week, our crew is always playing catch-up. There was a time when the Town employed three staff to handle maintenance around Town. Unfortunately, the Town could never find an adequate replacement after this position became vacant. The Town has tried to fill the void with contractor support. However, this really hasn't been sufficient as more responsibilities keep getting added on to an already full work load. Even with overtime work and minimal use of leave, there are not enough hours in the day. For this reason, Gene and I have asked the Council to approve the cost to add a third person to our crew. As tax paying residents, we've seen our Town budget grow in size to the point that our capital budget is now more than double the size it was only four years ago. Let's invest this bounty towards improving the maintenance of our Town.

I'd like to extend the Town's gratitude to Councilmember Joanna Welch who resigned this week after serving 5 ½ years on the Town Council. Under her leadership, the Town received a brand-new playground constructed by the County—a total restoration of the playground at Wells Park that not only is larger in scale than it used to be but also may be the most fanciful and fun playground in the area. Most recently, Joanna spearheaded the recruitment process for a new Town Manager. It was very successful, concluding with a unanimous decision by the Council and me to select Ms. Andrea Fox who comes with years of local and city government experience. Andrea will start on December 10th and join us that same evening at our Town Council meeting. So thank you Joanna, on behalf of the entire Town Council, for your dedicated service.

Following Joanna's departure, the Council made an administrative appointment to select Mr. Dan Simons to

finish out Joanna's term which ends next spring (May 2019). Dan, who is a restaurateur and business partner, moved into Garrett Park with his family in 2006. First settling on Weymouth, Dan and his family now live on Waverly.

With the anticipated onboarding of Andrea as our new Town Manager, we also will be saying goodbye to Gene who has served our Town with loyalty and dedication these past six years. I will truly miss his calm and quiet disposition and his willingness to readily pitch in on the demands of the day, whatever they may be. Gene's last day will be Friday, December 7th. Per his wishes, we plan to hold an informal, open-house goodbye for him that same day. Feel free to stop by anytime (afternoon preferred) to give your regards and wish him well.

Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

Kacky Chantry, Mayor

### Elbert Chang, DDS, MS

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~ Garrett Park resident ~

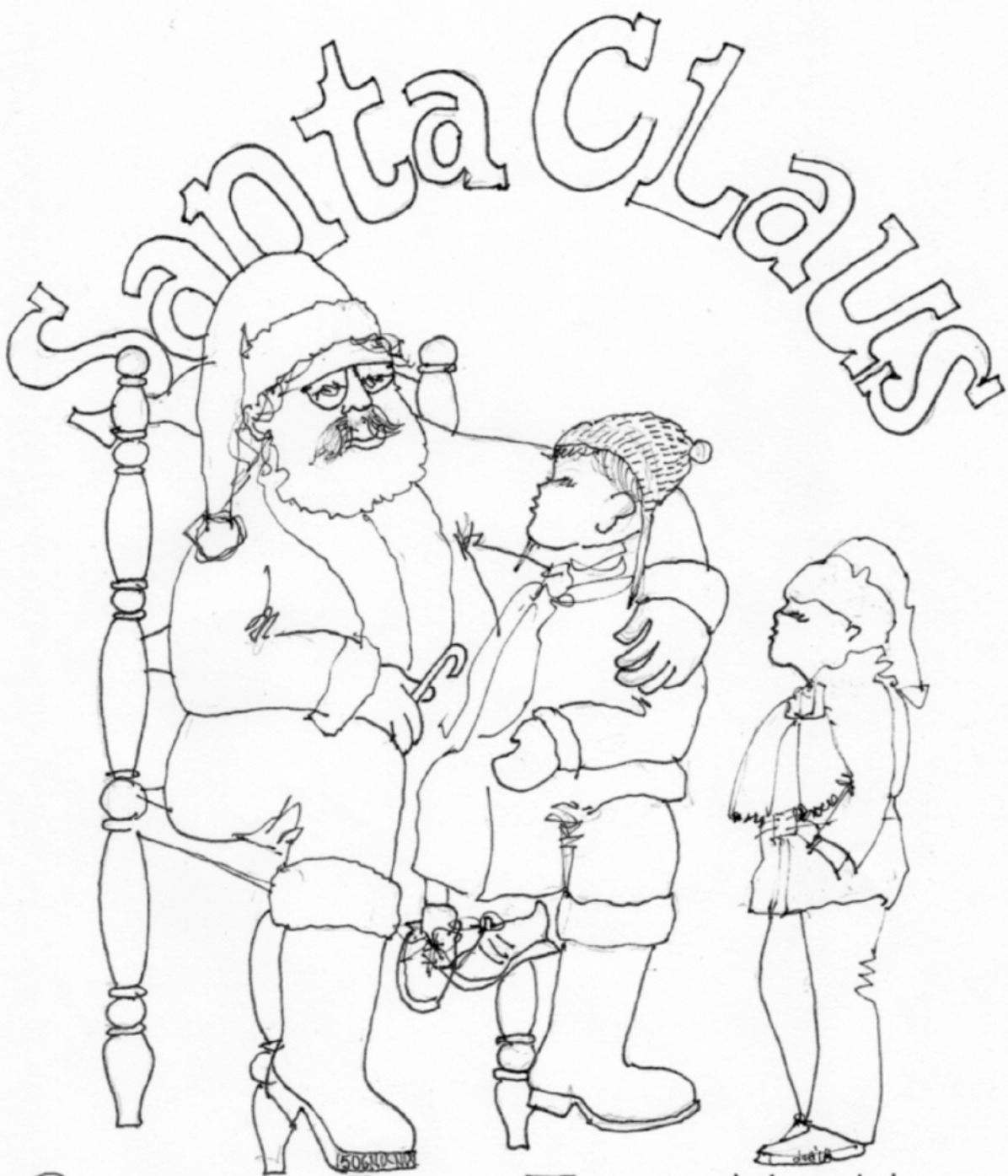


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Garrett Park Town Hall

December 8<sup>th</sup> - 2018

Sing along with George Oakley 3:00 P.M.

Santa Arrives 3:45 P.M.

Hot Chocolate, Cookies, Candy Canes