

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 67

December 2020

No. 10

Calendar

Sat Nov 28	NO Farmers Market	Thurs Dec 24	Town Office “open” 9 am – 12 pm
Tues Dec 1	GIVES Collecton: Adult Hats, Gloves, Masks, Box in PO Lobby		
Sat Dec 5	Farmers Market, 10 am – 1 pm, Penn Place	Fri Dec 25	Happy Holidays! Town Office Closed
Sat Dec 12	Farmers Market, 10 am- 1 pm, Penn Place	Thurs Dec 31	Town Office “open” 9 am – 12 pm
Mon Dec 14	Town Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	Fri Jan 1	Happy New Year! Town Office Closed
Sat Dec 19	Farmers Market, 10 am- 1 pm, Penn Place GIVES Collection 9-12 pm, PO	Sat Jan 2	Farmers Market, 10 am – 1 pm, Penn Place

Town Council Meeting Notes

A pretty slow month for the council meeting in November. So, this will be a short summary. I was tempted to just change the date on last month’s report and republish it. Or, beef up the report by leavening it with some jokes. Just kidding! OK, let’s get serious.

The minutes of the last two meetings were approved with a handful of small changes. There were no presentations by residents. The only action item was the appointment of two people to the Arboretum Committee—Alan Darkins and Kathy Benjamin. Kathy is already on the committee, but will have her term extended by 6 months. Adam is new to the committee. Both names were approved. There being no new business, the meeting moved on to the monthly updates, so, slam bang, here we go:

- Sidewalks. Mayor Kacky confirmed that the town now has a “punch list”—in construction project jargon, a list of fixes needed before the job can be declared finished. There are a handful of things to be done (some cracks, a spot where the sidewalk slopes sideways the wrong direction, etc.) Councilmember Bennett asked about evaluation of the project manager hired over the summer. Recall that in October, councilmembers lamented the lack of any written or oral reports from the manager to the council. Mayor Kacky said he was a tremendous help, but that there was no need to extend his contract for future projects.
- Stormwater. Councilmember Grande discussed the status of the problem at the end of Rokeby, noting that, once upon a time,

there was a pedestrian bridge over an open stream rather than a path over a pipe between Garret Park and Garrett Park estates. He indicated that it is worth looking into returning to that approach (to increase the capacity of water flow), and the town engineer will provide cost estimates on alternatives. The town engineer is also working on plans for the drainage problem on Clermont.

- Archives. Councilmember Sculp announced that the Archives webpage is undergoing revision, and that the Charles Monson exhibit in the P.O. will be up until the end of November.
- Arboretum. Councilmember Bennett indicated that the fall tree plantings and trimming/removal continues. In addition, some work will occur in relandscaping the area around the rebuilt drainage outfall on Clermont next to the entrance to Porcupine Woods. This work will occur either this fall or next spring depending on the weather after the job is put out to bid.
- Land Use. Council member Paczkowski is still workings on language for an ordinance on side setbacks for corner lots, and expects to have it ready for the December council meeting.
- Historic Preservation. Councilmember Paczkowski is working on concept plans for possible Town Hall renovations with estimated costs per square foot. Mayor Kacky

Continued next page

indicated interest in getting a working group going to assist councilmember Paczkowski.

- Pepco LED lights. Councilmember Schulp had more information than last month, having talked with Pepco since then. The town currently has energy-efficient induction lights (don't ask, I have no idea what an induction light is) on town streets (i.e. not the ones on Strathmore Avenue). Consequently, Pepco's demand to replace them with LED lights (at our expense) seemed odd. However, it turns out that our induction lights are about 15 years old and approaching the end of their lifetime (considered to be 20 years). Replacing them with more induction lights as they start to give out could be difficult as they are now an obsolete technology with dwindling supplies of bulbs. Therefore, it probably makes sense to make the move to LED lights soon. The mayor and council were inclined to give councilmember Schulp authority to make a decision on this with Pepco, with the stipulation that he bring the issue back to the council if something unexpected comes up.
- As usual, the evening ended with the Town Manager's report. Interim manager Sandlin reported that October revenues and expenditures remain at expected levels. This continues to be good news, since what would happen to revenues during the pandemic was uncertain last spring when the budget was put together. She also reported that the new town flatbed truck has arrived. Yay! On that positive note, the meeting adjourned.

Ed Lincoln, *Bugle* Reporter

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*

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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.

How can residents keep informed about Town news and events?

The best way to know about **Town** services, government, committees and meetings is to sign up for e- notifications from www.garrettparkmd.gov To do so, register for a website user account at: <https://www.garrettparkmd.gov/Sys/sso/Register>, and please provide your street address.

After your account is active, and you are signed in, go to: <https://www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal/sign-up-for-email-notifications>. Select which News/Announcements, and Calendar notifications to

receive by clicking on the desired items, then scroll down to click "Submit".

For more informal town resident discussions, register for the Garrett Park Town Forum, by emailing: adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov. Provide your street address and request to be added to the Forum. The Forum is a Google Group, and you can adjust your settings to determine how you want the email managed.

Town Manager's Notes

"Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour." –John Boswell

Holiday Gifts. If you would like to contribute a holiday gift to the crew members who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, please mail your check to the Town of Garrett Park, PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Garrett Park with "Holiday Fund" written as the memo. The Town will send each contributor an acknowledgement and will see that the funds are properly distributed. The Town Office will collect contributions through mid-January.

Important Dates

December 14 – Town Council Meeting

December 25 – The Town Office will be closed for Christmas

Regular Reminders:

Communication. Please sign up for the resident's portal, as it provides the Town Office with one more way to reach you. Register at www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal

New to town? Contact the Town Office at 301-933-7488. We'll get you acquainted with what you need to know about living in Garrett Park.

Permits. A Garrett Park building permit is required when a new structure is to be built including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is in addition to the required Montgomery County permit. Complete your Garrett Park permit application and submit along with your plat and drawings to the Town Office before requesting a County permit. Permit applications and payment can be completed online at www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits.

As always, please reach out to the Town Office with any questions or concerns, 301-933-7488 or managerdebi@garrettparkmd.gov.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Debi Sandlin
Interim Town Manager

Holiday Safety Tips

As you prepare to celebrate the holiday season, the Town of Garrett Park is providing the following safety tips to assist you in having a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Shopping

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Do not talk on a cell phone when walking through stores and parking lots. Your phone conversation is distraction, making you vulnerable. Keep your full attention on your surroundings.
- If you use an automatic teller machine to get cash, check for people around the ATM and make sure it is in a well-lit and safe location.
- Carry only the credit cards you need and avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Wear your purse strapped across your body and wallets in your front pocket.
- In public restrooms do not hang your purse on the handle/hooks and never on the floor.
- If you are shopping with small children make a plan in case you get separated.
- If you believe someone is following you, cross the street, switch directions, walk into a store or restaurant until you feel it is safe.
- If you are ready to leave a store or shopping center and feel uneasy about entering a parking lot or garage by yourself, stay inside and ask for a security escort.

Car Safety

- Always lock your vehicle, even if you are only away for a few moments.
- When parking your vehicle to go shopping, remember where you parked. Always park in well-lit and well-traveled area.
- When you return to your vehicle, scan the interior of your car to be sure no one is hiding inside; check to see if you were followed.
- Park as close to the store entrance as possible.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Don't fumble for car keys or a key fob. Have them in your hand, ready to use when you reach the car.
- Do not electronically unlock your vehicle until you are within door opening distance. This will help stop a thief from getting into your car when you reach your car. If you believe you are in danger, call 911 immediately.
- When storing items in your vehicle place them out of sight.
- Do not leave your purse, wallet, or cell phone in plain view.
- When stopping for gas, lock your doors while pumping gas to prevent thieves from grabbing your valuables.

Online Shopping

- Beware of the "a good deal" scam. Things are not always what they appear to be.
- Keep your personal information private and passwords secured.
- Make sure you are using a secure browser. A secure browser should have an <https://> with a lock in the corner.
- When ordering online, use a credit card instead of a debit card. It is much easier to cancel a credit card if an account number is illegally obtained.

- Use Paypal or Applepay on purchases to avoid the vendor getting credit card information or from having to take your credit card out of your wallet.
- Consider using one-time credit card numbers offered by some credit card companies for purchases online.
- If you receive an unsolicited email to purchase an item, log on directly to the official website for the business identified in the email, instead of "linking" to it from an unsolicited email.
- If you receive an email from your bank, credit card issuer, contact the business found on your statements directly before replying to an email.

Home Safety Tips

- Always lock your doors and windows, even if you plan to be out for a short period of time.
- Do not leave wrapped presents or your expensive gadgets visible from windows at your home. Laptops, wallets, purses, and car keys should be kept out of sight. It only takes a second for a thief to see what you have.
- Leave lights turned on both inside and outside your residence after dark. Criminals do not like bright places.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows of your home.
- Keep hedges and plantings trimmed around your windows and doors to prevent thieves from hiding in them.
- Do not let anyone you are not expecting into your house. If someone has an appointment, ask for their identification before allowing them to enter your home. If you are unsure, call the company first.
- Be aware, criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. Ask for their identification, better yet, do not open your door to anyone you are not expecting.
- Be wary of unexpected phone calls asking for personal information.

Disposing of Holiday Trash

- Avoid becoming an easy target for holiday thieves. Break down boxes for recycling, and dispose of any packaging with identifying information from holiday gifts in garbage bags so as not to advertise what may be in your home.

Wishing everyone a Very Happy and Safe Holiday Season

Debi Sandlin, Interim Town Manager

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David Altar

301-602-2713

David.altar1@gmail.com

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Arboretum Committee Notes

Winter Tree Tips from the Arboretum Committee

Nine new trees have just been added to the town's arboretum. Although they are dormant, trees can be stressed by the winter weather ahead, especially young trees that haven't yet developed extensive root systems or thick bark.

Here are some things you can do to protect your own trees until spring:

Water. It's usually a lack of water that does the most damage over the winter months. To protect the root system, water during any long dry periods. Water only when the temperature is above 40 degrees and there is no snow or ice on the ground near the tree.

Also, water early in the day, so the water can be absorbed before the temperature drops at night.

Mulch. Put a blanket around your tree! Adding up to 2" of organic mulch around the tree out to the dripline protects from moisture loss and insulates the roots against temperature extremes. Just avoid putting any mulch up against the trunk.

Ice melt. Don't use rock salt (sodium chloride). It harms the roots. Choose ice melt products containing calcium, potassium or magnesium chloride instead. Fortunately Garrett Park does not use sodium chloride on our streets.

Snow. When you find branches that are bending from ice or snow accumulation, your first instinct is probably to shake them. We recommend NOT doing that, unless the snow is dry and fluffy. Shaking off heavy snow or trying to break off ice can cause damage. If you must, gently push the snow off the branches with a broom using gentle upward movements.

If snow gets shoveled up against the tree, don't worry. It can be a good thing (as long as there is no rock salt mixed in) if there is a nice gradual melt, allowing the water to soak into the ground.

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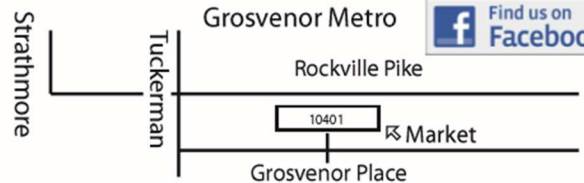
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G.I.V.E.S.

Typically, as the holidays approach, many of us begin to think about gift giving. This year, as we continue to deal with COVID-19, giving gifts to families in need and donating to organizations like those that G.I.V.E.S. supports has become increasingly important. We've all felt the effects of the pandemic, but among the communities affected most are the homeless, and winter is an especially difficult time.

[Stepping Stones](#) and [Thrive DC](#) provide critical emergency shelter and a wide range of services to vulnerable individuals and families in Montgomery County and Washington DC. Here are a few contactless gift and donation options that will have a direct and valuable impact on the people these vital organizations support during this unique 2020 holiday season:

- Bring joy to Stepping Stones families and their children by giving gifts on their [Holiday "Wish List"](#).
- Donate items on Stepping Stones' [Urgent Needs](#) list or from their [Urgent Needs "Wish List"](#) on Amazon.com for fast and easy ordering delivered right to the shelter.
- Donate exactly what Thrive DC needs by buying items off their [Amazon Wish List](#).
- Bring new or gently used and laundered adult gloves, hats and masks to the G.I.V.E.S. box at the Post Office and we will deliver them to Thrive DC at the end of December.

G.I.V.E.S. also plans to continue with outdoor in-person collections into winter as long as the weather cooperates. Come visit our table in front of the Post Office on December 19th and January 9th. Reminder –

we only accept cash and checks at this time, though we do plan to launch an electronic donation option in 2021.

Also beginning this month, Therese Keating joins G.I.V.E.S. as our new treasurer, taking over for Jenny Krivanek who has stepped down after 5 years at the helm. Our heartfelt thanks to Jenny for helping steer the G.I.V.E.S. ship through this turbulent transition period.

Finally, if you've volunteered to join [G.I.V.E.S.](#) and host Saturday morning collections, you should have received an email a few weeks ago with a link to a Sign-Up Genius. Please choose the date/time that works best for you in 2021. Thank you so much for your continued support. We couldn't do it without you!

With gratitude,
Molly Shuck and Natalie Grande (Co-Presidents),
Natalie and Therese Keating (Treasurer)
garrettparkgives@gmail.com

Town Resident Contributions

Kudos to Garrett Park's Girls on the Run team!

The pandemic has forced the cancellation of many activities, but this fall, it did not stop our very own Garrett Park Girls on the Run team—an awesome group 3rd, 4th and 5th graders—from getting up at the crack of dawn to train, braving rainy morning practices and chilly temperatures, and completing a community project for a nearby assisted living facility, all while wearing masks and social distancing.

On an early Sunday morning just before Thanksgiving, these intrepid runners triumphantly completed their season, safely running (on our awesome new sidewalks—yay!) their very own 5K through our Town of Garrett Park.

Very Hearty Congratulations to Meghan Andrews, Nura Nia Bhatt, Sofia Celis-Deppe, Norah Chernoff, Eleanor Fogarty, Juliet Fogarty, Haley Fout, Kim Hooton, Hannah Houton, and Ellie Welch for an incredible season, filled with grit, cheer and team spirit, and for crossing the finish line of your "5K Your Way" in high spirits and with energy to spare!!!

Many thanks as well to all the families and neighbors who supported and cheered on our very own Garrett Park Girls on the Run team!

Submitted by Steph Hooton, Shelley Court

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