

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 67

November 2020

No. 9

Calendar

Mid Oct	Street sweeping begins mid October- until mid December	Wed Nov 11	Veterans Day, Town Office Closed
Sat Oct 31	Farmers Market, Penn Place, 9 AM – 1 PM; Halloween! Watch for trick or treaters	Sat Nov 14	Farmers Market, Penn Place, 9 AM – 1 PM
Tues Nov 3	General Election, Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM	Thurs & Fri. Nov 26,27	Thanksgiving, Town Office Closed
Sat Nov 7	Farmers Market, Penn Place, 9 AM – 1 PM	Sat Nov 28	Farmers Market, Penn Place, 9 AM – 1 PM
Mon Nov 9	Town Council Meeting, 7:30 PM		

Town Council Meeting Notes

Dear reader, you will be pleased to know that the October Town Council meeting was rather short and uneventful (as is this report). Mayor Kacky was still away on an extended vacation, so acting mayor Simons presided. There were no action items, and no new business items. The agenda was approved quickly with a couple minor additions. The draft minutes needed a few changes that were being circulated, so the vote on them was postponed to November. The rest of the meeting consisted of residents' presentations, updates, and the monthly town manager's report. Here they are.

- Halloween: Lesley Maloney and Monet Lopes made the only residents' presentation, explaining the plan of the ad hoc group organizing a Garrett Park Safe Halloween Alternative, scheduled for Thursday, October 29. I would provide the details, but by the time you read this the event will have already taken place.
- Sidewalk project: The first update was, of course, the sidewalk project. Dare I say it? For all practical purposes, the project is completed. Councilmember Simons explained that a list of minor corrections to be made (a so-called "punch list" in construction job parlance) is being assembled, and paperwork with the state government remains. Councilmember Paczkowski requested that councilmembers be invited to participate in meetings with state officials. Both he and councilmember Bennet also noted a lack of reporting to the council by the project manager hired over the summer.
- Stormwater management: Councilmember Grande reported that the committee is still working on a revised drainage plan with residents at the end of Rokeby, and the county has been cleaning out a junction box that has been part of the problem. As for the flooding issue on Clermont, the town lawyer recommends that the town begin with a survey of all the drainage piping in town, making it easier to determine who (resident, town, county) is responsible for addressing particular flooding problems. A contract for this survey work is in process.
- Train whistle: A contract is also in process to hire an expert to assess the loud train whistle issue, as reported by councilmember Simons.
- Archives: Councilmember Schulp mentioned the successful online presentation about Charles Monson and the possibility of an in-person encore of this program at the Town Hall when times return to normal.
- Arboretum committee: Councilmember Bennet noted that fall tree plantings and removals are in process, as is an update of the tree inventory. But she also issued a reminder that residents do not have the right to remove trees that are on town property. Councilmember Paczkowski noted that confusion or lack of knowledge also applies to the location and implications to homeowners of the historic district in town. These issues then led to discussion of how information about such regulations is conveyed to newcomers in town. New residents used to get a packet with various useful information in it, but the county no longer provides the materials that made up much of the

Continued next page

packet, so it was dropped. In addition, a new residents page on the town website was eliminated when the website was revised.

- **Penn Place**: Some 20 years ago, Nancy Schwartz had rescued pieces of an old stairway in Penn Place when the building was completely renovated, and Dave Almy has a design to use the pieces in some artistic fashion in Penn Place. Your reporter is intrigued as to what this might look like.
- **Land use**: Councilmember Paczkowski indicated that a new ordinance on corner lot side-setbacks is still in process.
- **Street lighting**: The town is arguing with Pepco, since Pepco has proposed installing LED lights to replace our almost-as-efficient induction lights which the town had paid Pepco \$250,000 to install quite recently (with a meeting between town officials and Pepco scheduled for the day after the council meeting).
- **Town emergency powers**: Councilmember Schulp brought up the desirability of the town establishing a “clean and lean” ordinance. This would clarify town government legal rights in certain emergency cases where, for example, a dangerously leaning tree on a resident’s property needs to be removed quickly for public safety. He and acting town manager Sandlin will look into this.
- **Town Manager’s report**: Concluding the evening was the town manager’s monthly report. At the moment, revenues and expenditures are at expected levels. But the town does not yet know the full impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on town revenues from the state and county for the whole fiscal year. When the current budget was adopted, the council had considered doing the mid-year assessment and budget revision early, but it may be December before the town knows with greater certainty what will happen to those sources of revenue. On that note, the meeting came to an end.

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

As author Albert Camus so eloquently stated, “Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

Upcoming Dates to Remember

November 11 – The Town Office will be closed for Veteran’s Day, a Federal holiday.

November 26 and 27 – The Town Office will be closed for Thanksgiving.

Town Permitting Information

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. To save time, send your completed permit and submission of plats and drawings to adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov before requesting a County permit. Permit applications and payment can be completed online at www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits.

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. 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.

Leaf Raking & Yard Work Assistance

Any young people in Town who would like to offer their services to help residents with fall yard work may contact Elizabeth Henley at adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov at the Town Office to add your name to our list.

Town Website

Garrett Park has an excellent website full of good information and timely notifications. We encourage you to get into the habit of checking the site for general information to obtain meeting schedules, get updates on trash, recycling and large item pick-ups and much more. You can visit our website at www.garrettparkmd.gov.

Communication

If you haven't already, 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? Welcome! Please contact the Town Office at 301-933-7488 to let us know your are here and if you have any questions.

Although Town offices are still closed to the public, please know Town staff has not missed a beat since the Pandemic began. We are steadfast in our commitment to meeting the needs of the community and ensuring the daily operations of the Town remain seamless. In the meantime, please remember to wear a mask and to socially distance as recommended by the CDC guidelines.

As always, please reach out to the Town Office with any questions or concerns at 301-933-7488 or send me an email at managerdebi@garrettparkmd.gov. On behalf of the Mayor, Town Council and staff, we wish you and your families a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Debi Sandlin
Interim Town Manager

Local Computer Repair

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Fast! Professional computer repairs, hardware upgrades, in-home tutorials, and much more. Virus removal, memory upgrades, restore speed, computer to smartphone assistance, printer help, custom computer builds for gaming or other needs. Need help with Zoom? Can't start your computer? Blue screen at startup? Computer slow? Programs, devices or features not working? Want to improve video and audio quality for video calls? Need wireless capabilities? Call or email to arrive at a solution.

David Altar
301-602-2713
David.altar1@gmail.com

From the Archives



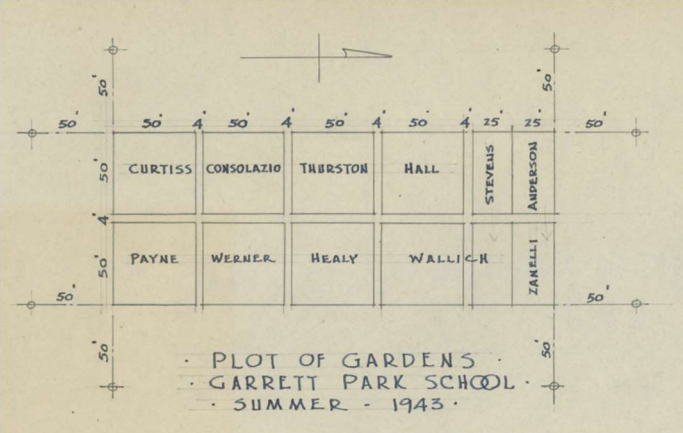
Recently, I read a *New York Times* article about the comeback of Victory Gardens due to fears of pandemic-related food shortages. Victory Gardens first gained popularity during World War I when the government encouraged families to grow and can their own fruits and vegetables. Having a Victory Garden

was considered a patriotic way to ensure needed supplies for troops. During World War II, Garrett Park residents were amongst the 20 million people in the U.S. who joined the effort. On March 2, 1943, Frank Davis of the Montgomery County Public Schools granted

Clarence Buck (Montrose Avenue) permission to use Garrett Park school land for Victory Gardens:

"I will gladly give permission for the use of some part of the Garrett Park school land for 'Victory Gardens'. I think it is a fine idea for you to use some of this vacant land for the purpose of growing more food during this critical period."

Oral historians described the land as having rich soil and open with no trees. Interested gardeners applied for 50' x 50' plots. As this drawing from the Archives shows, residents Clyde and Vera Hall, George Payne, and Perry and Mary Wallich joined the effort, as did the young Zarelli couple, Chole Curtiss, and others.



In 1944, Garrett Park gardeners continued their efforts, even seeking ways to improve their harvest. John Thurston wrote on his application form:

"I would like to have the same plot I had this past year, as I have planted rye on it for green manure and taken other measures to improve it."

If you've joined the modern-day Victory Garden movement, take pride in knowing that you're part of a larger Garrett Park tradition. (Oh, and feel free to donate photos of your Victory Gardens to the Town Archives!)

Claire McDonald, Town Archivist

Services for Seniors

- Bathing
- Lifting
- Personal Care & Hygiene

- Dressing
- Transferring

- Companionship
- Meal Preparation
- Medication Reminder
- Physical Therapy
- Light Housekeeping
- Transportation to Appointments

- 2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimum
- All caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistants
- The owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needs
- All caregivers are fluent in English
- Personal choice in selection of every caregiver
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VA • Call 703-956-3564 www.eldercaringofnova.com
Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Arboretum Committee Notes

Essential seasonal care of trees along the Town's streets is currently underway. Crews from SavATree of Rockville and Branches Tree Experts of Kensington are performing the work. Deadwood and low hanging branches will be trimmed from over 40 trees, and at least 15 dead or failing trees will be removed. The State delayed removing the trees at the top of the hill on Knowles and no word yet on rescheduling.

Thirteen new trees – including fringe trees, red maples and a Siberian spruce -- have been selected from the County’s Pope Farm Nursery for planting along the Town’s streets later this fall. The tree species and locations are listed on the Town’s web [site](#). If you are interested in having a tree planted in the right-of-way at your residence or observe an issue with a Town tree, please email the Town Manager. For an issue with an existing tree, note the tag number on the tree.

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G.I.V.E.S.

Happy Holidays from G.I.V.E.S.!

As Thanksgiving approaches, G.I.V.E.S. has lots of reasons to give thanks. First, we would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to the Garrett Park Women’s Club for its generous donation of \$300. We truly appreciate your support! G.I.V.E.S. is also grateful to Judy Weisberg and her grandchildren for making Halloween goody bags for the children at [Stepping Stones Shelter](#), one of the organizations we support. You are so kind and thoughtful! Finally, thanks to all of you who participated in the recent fundraising events sponsored by Stepping Stones. Family Fun Day at Smokey Glen Farm was chilly but well-attended with over 200 people, and Stepping Up With Laughter virtual comedy hour was super-fun and attracted over 100 viewers.

Usually at this time of year, G.I.V.E.S. gears up for our annual winter coat drive to support [Thrive DC](#), but this year is truly like no other. In lieu of coats, please consider donating new or gently used and laundered adult gloves, hats and masks to G.I.V.E.S. for Thrive DC’s clients. Our donation station will be available in the Post Office starting December 1st.

G.I.V.E.S. 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 November 7th and December 19th. Reminder – we only accept cash and checks at this time though we do plan to launch an electronic donation option in 2021.

We are finalizing our volunteer list to host Saturday morning collections next year. If you are looking for a way to become involved in your local community, help others less fortunate, and can spare **JUST 2 HOURS PER YEAR**, then G.I.V.E.S. would like to hear from you. To join G.I.V.E.S., please contact us at garrettparkgives@gmail.com.

With gratitude,
Molly, Natalie and Jenny
G.I.V.E.S. Co-Presidents and Treasurer

Town Resident Contributions

Backyard Wedding in Garrett Park



Jonathan Goldsmith and Sara Stinson, new Garrett Park residents as of this summer, are happy to announce that they were married at their home on Weymouth Street on October 11th! After the pandemic forced them to cancel their original wedding plans, Jonathan and Sara realized they had the perfect "Plan B" location in their beautiful new backyard overlooking Rock Creek Park. With masks and hand sanitizer aplenty, they were married surrounded by only their closest family and friends. Rain from a tropical storm couldn't stop the socially-distanced celebrations. They are grateful to their neighbors for the well wishes, and look forward to many years of happy married life in Garrett Park! They (along with their beagle, Ham) hope to meet you soon.



Why – and how -- to leave the leaves this fall

Autumn in Garrett Park – when the noise of leaf blowers fills the air and slippery leaf piles fill the streets. Why leave the leaves instead? A few reasons to consider:

Love pollinators? Most butterflies and moths don’t migrate and need fallen leaves for various life stages to survive winter, as do fast-disappearing native bees and fireflies. Leaving the leaves protects these pollinators and the plants and animals that depend on them.

Don’t love creepy-crawlies, like spiders, snails, beetles, worms and millipedes? They too need fallen leaves to survive winter, while in turn the birds, chipmunks, amphibians and turtles rely on these critters for food.

Worried about leaves smothering grass and garden beds? Decomposing leaves feed the soil, suppress weeds and retain moisture. Leaf-blowing degrades topsoil in beds and around shrub and tree roots. Why damage your plants and buy mulch and fertilizer when you have free leaves?

Irritated by noisy, smelly gas-powered leaf blowers? They’re not just a temporary nuisance. These fossil-fueled tools are 100 times more polluting than cars. They emit climate-wrecking carbon-dioxide, carcinogens and lung-penetrating ultrafine particles. These and other pollutants – including noise – adversely affect our communities, especially vulnerable children and senior citizens. But yard service workers bear the disproportionate brunt of health and hearing impacts, a clear environmental justice issue.

The perfect doesn’t have to be the enemy of the good. Get an electric leaf blower or encourage your landscaping service to switch over. Run a mulching mower to shred the leaves on your lawn and let them feed the soil or dump the mower bag out to mulch your plants. Make a leaf pile or get a simple leaf compost bin. Leave the leaves under shrubs and trees.

And a closing thought . . . don’t we all deserve a little more downtime, especially in 2020?

Jane McClintock, 4405 Oxford St.

Call Todd today, your local neighborhood realtor!



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~ Garrett Park resident ~

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Puns

- 1. To lie is a liability.
- 2. What was the precursor to the cursor?
- 3. I eat my pancakes surreptitiously.
- 4. I was intent on camping.
- 5. Writing with a dull pencil is pointless.
- 6. I’m allergic to captivity. I break out.
- 7. Carbon dating is going out with the same person more than once.
- 8. When the crows go, “caw,caw,caw”, it’s called a caucus.

Submitted by Robert LeMar