

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 67

January 2020

No. 1

Calendar

Wed Jan 1	Happy New Year! Town Office Closed	Sat Jan 18	Farmers Market, 9 am- 1pm, Penn Place GIVES Collection 9-12 pm, PO Lobby
Sat Jan 4	LARGE ITEM PICKUP Farmers Market, 9am – 1pm, Penn Place	Mon Jan 20	Art at Penn Place, Tammy Trocki, Penn Place Gallery until February 15
Mon Jan 6	District 18 Delegates Town Hall, 7 – 9 pm, Town Hall	Fri Jan 24	Film Society presents Loving Vincent Dinner at 7, Film at 8, Town Hall
Sat Jan 11	Farmers Market, 9am – 1pm, Penn Place	Sat Jan 25	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place
Mon Jan 13	Town Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Town Hall	Sun Jan 26	Art at Penn Place Reception for Tammy Trocki, 3-5pm, Penn Place Gallery
Tues Jan 14	Lunch Bunch, 12:30, Town Hall		

Town Council Meeting Notes

Your regular reporter is back on the job, after a three-month absence due to work in New York. Many thanks to both Ken Schwartz and Sean Conlan for able work in covering those meetings. Eager to jump back into the fray, I was looking forward to sorting out complex or difficult issues for readers. Imagine my disappointment, then, to see an agenda that had no action items, only one new business item, and only five updates. On top of that, there were no presentations by residents, and very sparse attendance in the audience. Oh well. But maybe having a quiet low-key meeting is the better way to ease back into the reporter's role.

The preliminaries—the mayor's opening remarks, approval of the agenda, and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting all passed fairly quickly. Mayor Kacki noted that Malcolm Russell-Einhorn has now been appointed to the archives committee. Apparently, as noted in the *Bugle* last month, there was a hitch in his appointment due to an ordinance about residency requirements for town committees. The solution was to make him a "volunteer of special rank" (if I got that convoluted title right). She also noted that the grass has been cut and widows covered at the derelict house on Kenilworth, a house apparently now in foreclosure. Then both the agenda and minutes were approved with minor changes.

With no presentations by residents and no action items, the meeting moved on to new business. The

sole item was a report by Mayor Kacki about a recent meeting and walk-through concerning a sidewalk on the south side of Strathmore Avenue, from the edge of Garrett Park to the entrance to Holy Cross High School. Although this is not officially a Garrett Park project (since it is not within the boundaries of the town), town residents have been active in pushing for it (recall the petition that circulated several months ago). The mayor was pleased with the meeting, which was attended by officials from the State Highway Authority (SHA), District 18 state legislators or their representatives from their staff, residents/officials of Garrett Park and Garrett Park Estates, and administrators of Holy Cross. After years of indifference or opposition on the part of SHA, your reporter was surprised to hear that this project is now going to happen. The current goal is to have the design work done by the coming summer with actual construction occurring in 2021. Hooray!

The first update item was, of course, the never-ending saga of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) sidewalk project. Actual construction appeared to be likely in the very near future when your reporter disappeared at the end of the summer, and he feared that he would miss the chance to write about the actual start. Not to worry! Little niggling issue remain before construction starts, including something about "submittals" (don't ask; I have no clue). But there was at least the possibility that these would be resolved in a few more days, with notifications to residents affected by the work occurring by the time this report is printed.

Continued next page

Councilmember Wegner gave an update on the issue of additional lighted warning signs for the intersection of Strathmore and Keswick (with an additional flashing light on Strathmore, partway down the hill to alert uphill traffic to the presence of a pedestrian in the crosswalk) SHA is willing to support this, and councilmember Wegner is mobilizing our delegates to put some pressure on the county.

Councilmember Schulp noted that some warnings have been handed out already to cars violating parking regulations in the vicinity of Penn Place. He also noted that the Archives committee is moving forward now that it has its new member.

Councilmember Paczkowski’s update on the land use committee provided what may turn out to be the most important news of the evening. The committee has been studying town side-lot setback requirements for corner lot properties and they are ready to make a proposal for changes in those rules. What is this all about? Apparently, this topic arose due to the county’s desire to make it easier for homeowners to build accessory units on their property (e.g. mother-in-law housing). Rather than saying more here, look for an email written by councilmember Paczkowski outlining what the committee has in mind. Suffice it to say that the issue is likely to involve a variety of views and will require discussion at public meetings to sort them out before any town council vote on the matter occurs.

Finishing out the evening, town manager Andrea Fox noted that revenues and expenses are proceeding as expected. All’s well that ends well.

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*

Citizens Association Officers
Alysia Bone, President ~ Paul Doria-Rose, Vice-President ~ Henri Keller, Treasurer ~ Steve Welker, Secretary
Editor: Steve Welker (garrettbugle@gmail.com)

Reporter: Ed Lincoln (Box 348)

Ads and Distribution: Steve Welker (garrettbugle@gmail.com)

Calendar and Subscriptions: Joanne Schmader (Box 415) ~ First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (no bulk mail).

*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

Holiday Gifts. Thanks to all who’ve already contributed to the holiday gift for the crew members who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste. If you’d like to contribute, 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 January 2020

funds are properly distributed to the six crew members. The Town Office will collect contributions through mid-January.

Important Dates

- January 1 – Town Office closed for New Year’s Day
- January 4 – Large Item pick-up
- January 6 – (Rescheduled from December 16) The District 18 delegates will hold a Town Hall Meeting at the Garrett Park Town Hall from 7-9 pm. All residents are invited to attend, meet the delegates, and enjoy light refreshments.
- January 13 – Town Council Meeting
- January 20 – Town Office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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 or stop by the 3rd floor at Penn Place. 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

Yard Waste & Leaves. Yard waste is collected on the first Monday of each month now through February. Leaves are collected weekly, as early in the week as possible. Place leaves in rows streetside of the curb, and remove sticks, rocks, trash, and other debris that can damage the machinery. Shredded leaves or grass clippings should be bagged and put out for the regular yard waste collection on Mondays. Rain or inclement weather will delay leaf collection. Parents, please discourage your children from playing in leaves along the curb.

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

Andrea Fox, Town Manager

Citizens Association Notes

Town Dinner

The 2020 Town Dinner, presented by the Garrett Park Citizens Association, is on **Saturday, January 25, 2020. All ages welcome.** The theme for this year is “Embarrassing Moments.” Come ready to share

your stories – from the little blush-worthy goofs to the utter face-palm gaffs. 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 Henri (hkeller4501@verizon.net) or Alysia (alysia.bone.gp@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 2020 CA elections will be held during the 2020 Town Dinner on January 25. The current CA Vice President and CA Treasurer 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 (President and Secretary) are welcome as well.

CA Dues

The annual CA fees for 2020 will be due in January. The fee is \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. These dues go towards paying for the Bugle printing, and the annual CA events such as the July 4th 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.

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From the Archives

Feeling a bit overwhelmed that it's already 2020? Maybe it's time to visit the past at the Garrett Park Town Archives. We all know what life is like in 2020 Garrett Park, but what was it like 100 years ago in 1920? I did some exploring of our collections as well as the Library of Congress' Chronicling America website to find out ... Here are some interesting tidbits:

- In January 1920, Jason F. Defandorf (10800 Keswick) was the Mayor, and Smith L. Putnam (11006 Kenilworth) was Clerk-Treasurer.
- At their January 10 meeting, the Town Council ratified "The contract made with Charles H. Davis to perform the sanitary service for the town at 50 cents per house per month."
- The Town tax rate was 50 cents.
- In August 1920, town resident Lieutenant B.R. Donnelly's (11019 Kenilworth) request for telephone service was denied on account the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company had "no available conductors in our cable feeding that locality."
- In August 1920, the Town paid \$52.86 (less trade-in value) to upgrade from an Underwood typewriter to an Oliver Model #9 typewriter.
- In September 1920, three months after passage of the 19th Amendment, Jessie Ross Thomson (11018 Kenilworth), Garrett Park's local suffragist and President of the Woman's Suffrage League of Montgomery County, co-hosted a "citizenship school" in Rockville to teach women how to vote.
- In October 1920, Jessie Ross Thomson hosted 50 women from the Montgomery County Federation of Woman's Clubs at her home. Lunch was prepared and served by Garrett Park clubwomen

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Mmes. Defandorf, Call, Truitt, Dye, Springer, and McMillan.

Who knows what you'll find when you dig through our Town Archives collections! Feel free to stop by. I'm usually here all day Wednesday and Thursday, but I'm happy to come in by appointment.

Claire McDonald, Town Archivist

Art at Penn Place

Coriolana Simon

What a treat for the holidays! Penn Place Gallery is pleased to present the beautiful and very unique 'history photographs' of Coriolana Simon, from December 23 through January 18th. Coriolana's photographs are contemporary interpretations of the realistic Dutch golden age paintings she has long admired. Studying the art and history of the classic Dutch painting tradition, she accurately recreates historic themes of Dutch culture and society using only objects that would have been appropriate in the 17th century, and through her photographs, brings the still lifes to life! Please join us for Coriolana's Meet-the-Artist Gallery Reception on December 29th from 3-5 pm ... everyone is welcome!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

About Neighbors Helping Neighbors

NHN provides information and assistance for a variety of services to residents of our community. These include a list of volunteer drivers to appointments, for grocery shopping, prescription pickups, exercise opportunities and a list of resident recommendations for home repairs available from the Town office. Check the Post Office for other helpful handouts. Also, the Town website www.garrettpark-md.gov for more information. NHN also provides general information on available free County resources for those planning to Age in Place. The Committee welcomes questions and concerns, and invites you to our monthly meetings in the Town office usually on the first Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m. We welcome new ideas and would especially like to encourage some "younger" people to participate. NHN plans to hold a Coffee on Saturday, April 18, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. outside Penn Place weather permitting. Watch for further information.

Help Needed:

Snow Removal. Young people in Town who would like to offer their services to help residents with snow removal may contact Elizabeth Henley at the Town Office to add their name to the list (301 933-7488). This is a good opportunity to earn some extra money & at the same time help fellow residents and get some exercise. Please consider signing up - we need YOU!

GP Women's Club

Holiday Decorating Contest

Congratulations to everyone from the Garrett Park Women's Club. Garrett Park is more beautiful than ever this year. All houses were winners but some deserved special recognition:

- Best House: 4605 Waverly (Tracy & Barry Liden)
- Best Yard: 10903 Kenilworth (Alicia & Jason Bone)
- Elves Award: 10915 Kenilworth (Therese & Pat Keating)
- Best Door/Window: 10804 Kenilworth (Ann & Jim Mallen)
- Most Charming: 11404 Rokeby (Ruth & Bob Heinssen)
- Best Tree(s): 4701 Argyle (Ann & Ed Sundt)
- Best Porch: 11205 Kenilworth (Andrea & Jason Birdsong)
- Most Creative: 11300 Kenilworth (Rich Folkers and Beth Mullen)
- Kid's Award: 11013 Montrose (Monet & Danny Lopes)
- Mayor's Award: 10801 Keswick (Ann & Frank McGuire)

Congratulations to all! Thank you for brightening our town, and adding to the joy of the season. Please take some time to enjoy the decorations!

Success with Venus d Minor!

The Garrett Park Women's club would like to thank all who joined us for the wonderful concert put on by the Ladies of Venus d Minor!

Not only musically funny, but for a good cause as well. Proceeds are going to the Betsy White Fund, to the tune of almost \$500! Cheers to all!

Town Resident Contributions

Santa Train Open House



The Altar family hosted their second annual Santa Train open house at 11100 Kenilworth Ave, and the Bugle is happy to report that it was a hit! Tony and Kristin were kind enough to provide some more background to the fantastic train set.

The layout is a combination of places the Altar family loves, including the Victorian homes from Garrett Park and Katonah, NY where they moved from in 1998; the mountains, rivers, and cabin home of northern California, and desert areas farther south; the midwestern small towns of Tony's native Pennsylvania; and places that live only in their imaginations. The wood platform and elevating mechanisms were made in 2017 by Tony and his engineering son, David. That project worked out beautifully and inspired the next 2 years of work creating the layout, requiring over 1,000 hours to complete. The base layer and all mountains are made from insulating foam blocks which are hand-sculpted and painted to look like rocks and natural terrain. The Altar's daughter, Juliana, and Tony designed the layout, and she learned how to use foam-cutting tools, solder, design switches and circuits, and operate the digitally-controlled locomotives.

The town benefits from an underground gold mine which provides significant economic benefit, though pilferage by some of its plastic inhabitants has been a problem. An active dinosaur digsite and Loch Ness monster sighting, working farm, and lively main street with two music bands performing are just some of the many attractions of this highly detailed and realistic layout.

When the layout is elevated, the houses are strategically placed to nestle between, and the streets lay underneath, the open beams of the ceiling joists (see below). This is the best "elevating" train layout Tony has ever seen. It is 6 x 10 feet in size with three separate oval tracks. The Altars had to keep pool and billiards in the picture, so this was like adding an extra room to the house.



Many thanks to the Altars for sharing their creation with the Town!

Spring Gardening

The winter months are the best time to start daydreaming of spring. And for many of us, spring means gardening! I have been interested in establishing a community garden in Garrett Park for quite some time, and after casually discussing this with a number of neighbors, it has become clear that many of you share this desire. Would you be interested in joining me in this endeavor? A community garden is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your neighbors, make productive use of the town's green space and explore a healthy hobby that can benefit everyone. If you would be interested in exploring these possibilities with me, please contact me via email at lsmith1018@gmail.com. Once I have determined the town's level of interest, we can decide on the next steps to take.

Submitted by Lisa Smith

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Letter from the Mayor

Dear Residents,

If ever there was a good time to hit the pause button, this is it. There isn't anything more I can tell you about the SRTS sidewalk construction project except that we're still dealing with contractor submittals, SHA required forms and permit renewals. Also, as I may have mentioned, concrete can't be poured if the ground is frozen and the air temperature is below 40 degrees. As you can imagine, we are flirting with Mother Nature and her freezing temperatures the deeper we go into winter. Thus, with construction in a lull and the holiday season upon us, now is a good time to hit the pause button and direct our thoughts and intentions elsewhere.

So, during this holiday season, let's make time to breathe deeply, laugh loudly and give unconditionally. And let's take time to appreciate family, friends and the traditions that bring us together.

From my family to yours, I wish you the happiest of holidays and a new year filled with good tidings, good health and good friends.

Mayor Kacky