



Calendar

Fri Jan 1	Happy New Year! Town Office Closed	Mon Jan 18	Martin Luther King Day Town Office Closed
Sat Jan 2	NO FARMERS MARKET	Wed Jan 20	Arboretum Advisory Committee Meeting, 7pm
Wed Jan 6	GPHPAC Meeting, 7 pm	Sat Jan 23	Farmers Market, 10 am – 1 pm, Penn Place
Sat Jan 9	LARGE ITEM PICKUP Farmers Market, 10 am – 1pm, Penn Place GIVES Collection, 9 am – 12 pm, PO	Thurs Jan 28	Citizens Association Virtual Meeting (in lieu of Town Dinner) (WebEx) – 6:30 pm
Mon Jan 11	Town Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	Sat Jan 30	Farmers Market, 10 am – 1 pm, Penn Place

Town Council Meeting Notes

Your star Garrett Park Town Council reporter, Ed Lincoln, was unable to virtually attend the December 14 Council meeting and asked me to cover for him. It was a cordial, quick Council session, lasting a bit over an hour.

The oddest moment was at the very beginning – a presentation by Maryland Municipal League (MML) Executive Director, Scott Hancock. Mr. Hancock presented an award to the Town in honor of the improvement in Garrett Park residents’ response rate associated with the 2020 decennial census, as compared with the 2010 census. He reported that the Town’s 2020 response rate was 86%. When asked what the 2010 response rate was, he reported that it was 2%, a clearly implausibly low number that could not be accurate. But the Council graciously accepted the MML award, which is a \$200 Black Market Bistro gift certificate. (In next month’s Bugle, perhaps one of the Town’s resident census enumerators will offer an explanation of the 2010 census anomaly!)

The sole action item on the Council’s agenda was introduction of a proposed land use ordinance modification. The proposal was presented by Councilmember Paczkowski, with the concurrence of the Land Use Advisory Committee. The proposal would only affect about 10 of the Town’s numerous “corner” lots/houses. Currently, Town ordinances require that corner lots must have building set-backs at least 30 feet from both streets on which they are situated. Some properties don’t adhere to that requirement, nor do they need to if they were built

prior to the enactment of the Town’s land use ordinances. The proposed change would allow corner lot buildings to have 15-foot set-backs from their side streets, while retaining 30-foot set-backs from their front streets. Councilmember Paczkowski explained that the original Town plan assumed narrow and deep lots, but in the post WWII building boom, residential streets have generally been planned with squarer lots. Further information on this topic will soon be available on the Town’s website. The Council unanimously approved the introduction of the ordinance, with a clarifying technical change in wording. Final action will likely take place at either the January or February Council meeting.

Town updates were as follows:

- SRTS. Eileen Kelly, who lives on Kenilworth, expressed concern that the sidewalk project had created “ponding” on her property. While she thought it would be rectified as part of the final contractor modifications, she has been informed that it is no longer going to be undertaken as part of the final work. Mayor Kacky informed Ms. Kelly that the Town would plan to remedy the problem, although the fix could not be undertaken as part of SRTS. That is, either the Town staff or a separate contractor would undertake a fix.
- Archives. Councilmember Schulp indicated that volunteer work associated with the Archives has been cut back to comply with COVID guidelines on social distancing and masking. In the next couple of months, Archives displays would mostly be online.

- Arboretum. Councilmember Bennett indicated that fall planting work has been completed and that more work would be done in the spring associated with the Clermont Avenue entrance to Porcupine Woods.
- Town Hall. Councilmember Paczkowski indicated that a meeting would likely be convened in late January to discuss Town Hall renovation options and associated costs.
- Train Noise. Councilmember Simon indicated that a consultant/lawyer is developing options for the Town regarding train whistles. The report will likely be completed before the January Council meeting. Several Councilmembers also expressed concern about modified (loud) car mufflers on Strathmore Avenue.

Finally, Acting Town Manager Debi Sandlin reported that the Town's finances, through November, were roughly consistent with projections and that mid-year changes to the 2021 budget would be undertaken in the January-February timeframe.

Ken Schwartz, able *Bugle*
Reporter stand-in

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 ~ Thomas DiChiara, Vice-President ~ Therese Keating, 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.

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

Holiday Gifts. Thanks to all who have already contributed to the holiday gift for the crew members responsible for taking away our trash, recycling, and yard waste. If you would like to still contribute, 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 ensure the funds are properly distributed to the four crew members. The Town Office will collect contributions through mid-January.

Important Dates

- Friday, January 1 – Town Office closed for New Year's Day
- Saturday, January 9 – Large Item pick-up
- Monday, January 11 – Town Council Meeting
- Monday, January 18 – 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 email Elizabeth Henley, Town Assistant at adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov or Debi Sandlin, Interim Town Manager at managerdebi@garrettparkmd.gov. We will help you 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

Large Item Pickup. The large item pickup is scheduled quarterly (**First quarter 2021 is scheduled for Saturday, January 9**). Please place your items curbside no later than **Friday afternoon**. The haulers can accept anything that two people can carry including appliances such as: washers, driers, refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers. **NO paints, tires, pesticides, or other toxic material.**

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

Happy New Year,
Debi Sandlin
Interim Town Manager

Citizen Association Notes

Happy New Year! After a particularly challenging last year, we wish you all a very happy and healthy 2021. Normally we'd be announcing plans for the annual Town Dinner at this time, but given continued social distancing restrictions and COVID-19 precautions, we cannot host this cherished Garrett Park tradition this year. Instead, we've reinvented this year's January Citizens Association (CA) event. On January 28th at 6:30pm, we'll be hosting virtual CA elections for our four executive board positions, followed by brief presentations on our treasury report and the Bugle and an open discussion about various virtual events the CA could host this year. We'll follow-up via the town forum listservs with details on how to join the January 28th meeting (e.g., WebEx link).

Elections:

The four current CA officers would be happy to continue to serve in our positions and will run for the 2021 cycle. If you're interested in running for any of these positions, please contact alysia.bone.gp@gmail.com and stephencwelker@gmail.com by January 9, 2021, so that we can make arrangements for a third-party election official. The current CA representatives and positions are:

- President - Alysia Bone
- Vice President - Tom DiChiara
- Secretary - Stephen Welker
- Treasurer - Therese Keating

Dues and 2021 Events:

We're now collecting CA dues for 2021: \$25 per family or \$15 for an individual. Dues support the printing costs of the Bugle and are also typically used to hold CA events such as the Town Dinner, wine tastings, 4th of July activities, and Spooky Woods. Though COVID-19 restrictions may prevent us from hosting some of these traditional events this year, we plan to organize other virtual activities (e.g., seminars and workshops) and other pandemic-friendly events. Please Venmo your dues to @GarrettPark-CitizensAssociatio, send cash or a check to PO Box 456, or email theresekeating@aol.com to make other arrangements. We'd love to hear your suggestions for 2021 virtual CA events at our January 28th meeting, or feel free to email alysia.bone.gp@gmail.com.

We look forward, as always, to seeing everyone in person together again. Until we can, stay safe, be well, and see you on WebEx.

¹ The National Register listing does give official protection to the town as a whole – through the Section 106 review process of the National Historic Preservation January 2021

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David.altar1@gmail.com

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Historic Preservation Committee Notes

New Year's greetings to all! As we embark on 2021, we want to share a few highlights from last year and remind the community about what we do and why.

The mission of the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee (GPHPC) is to help preserve and enhance our town's overall historic nature. "Official" historic status can be confusing, so here's a rundown of how it plays out. The *entire* Town of Garrett Park was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. That designation doesn't restrict changes to homes, but it gives us an official goal of maintaining our town's charm and nineteenth-century village plan while accommodating change and growth.¹ In 1992, a small [Garrett Park Historic District](#), consisting of Waverly Avenue and the 10900 blocks of Kenilworth and Montrose, was designated by Montgomery County. At the same time, several [individual buildings](#) were listed on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Much of the GPHPC's attention is directed at the homes that are within the historic district or individually listed, as they are afforded a higher level of protection that requires approval from the [Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission](#) (HPC) for any major exterior work. The HPC, staffed by historic preservation planners,

Act (NHPA) of 1966 – for any effects from federally-funded projects, such as sidewalks or highways.

reviews proposals for new construction, demolition, and exterior alterations through the mechanism of the Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) process. To help with the approval process, our committee, the GPHPC, consults with homeowners and submits reports reflecting our recommendations to the county commission. We consider both the need to preserve a property's historic significance and a homeowner's need to adapt their home to fit their lifestyle.

You may not know that in addition to officially historic homes, we are available to consult on the historic imprint of exterior changes to *any* house.

We take a look at all projects requiring a Garrett Park building permit, regardless of their location. One that caught our interest recently was a building permit requesting an exterior renovation to a home on Weymouth Street. The house was part of the Richterville house tour in 2019, which featured local architect Al Richter's mid-century modern designs (read the history of the neighborhood, [Ranches in Redsville](#)). Richter's 70+ year-old homes are not designated historic by the county, but to our town they have a good deal of historic significance. The tour highlighted both the overall streetscape of low-slung homes set into the wooded slopes as well as Richter's signature elements such as walls of glass and overhanging roofs allowing passive solar heat, open floor plans, and massive stone or brick fireplaces.

With this particular house, in order to gain much-needed interior space, the change to the front entrance removed one of Richter's 1950's modernist details – a recessed front porch. As our committee studied the architectural drawings, we were delighted to see that the new entrance looked like Richter might have designed it himself. It accommodated the need for more space with a thoughtful nod to the mid-century-modern aesthetic.

A recent first for our committee was to discuss solar panels. Even though many homes in Garrett Park have already installed them, this permit required our attention because the house was located within the historic district on Montrose Avenue. As we got up-to-speed on the county's [policy on solar panels](#), we learned that it takes a generally supportive stance because the county is committed to promoting energy conservation practices. Interestingly, it also considers solar panels as a temporary change that could be removed in the future and replaced by roof shingles embedded with solar technology. (To see an example, check out the roof at 54 Walnut St. in Takoma Park.) A shed replacement and an installation for a swimming pool, both to historic properties, also crossed our path.

We wrapped up the year with an informative virtual meeting with the county's Historic Preservation staff supervisor, Rebeccah Ballo, who clarified a few of our questions that had been building up. The good news is that staff will now consider more quickly applications for minor renovations on historic properties, such as installing storm windows or repairing shutters, allowing homeowners to avoid the more laborious process of getting the green light from the county commissioners.

Members of the committee welcome your questions and are happy to consult with you about your homes and projects.

With warm wishes for a happy and healthy new year,

Nancy Walz, chair (nancywalz@gmail.com)
Chris Keller, vice-chair (ckeller4501@verizon.net)
Marian Green
Suzi Balamaci
Perry Chapman
Stephen Paczkowski, Council Liaison
(councilstephen@garrettparkmd.gov)

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G.I.V.E.S.

Happy New Year from G.I.V.E.S.! The past year has been very difficult in so many ways, but despite the pandemic, which shuttered our in-person collections for a few months and forced us to cancel the annual Soup Supper fundraiser, G.I.V.E.S. had a remarkably successful 2020. In fact, thanks to your generosity, 2020 ranked as our second-best year in the past 10 years, fueled in part by several large donations in December. Huge thanks to The Conlon Family for their kindness and to Liliana Cordova for

her thoughtful contribution in honor of her neighbors on Montrose Avenue. [Stepping Stones Shelter](#) in Rockville, MD and [Thrive DC](#) in Washington, D.C. benefit tremendously from all your donations of any amount, especially during these continued trying times.

We will continue with in-person collections outside the Post Office on January 9th (weather permitting) and on the first Saturday of each month. If you miss us then, please consider using the G.I.V.E.S. can on the table in the post office when you stop by to pick up your mail. Or you can send donations to G.I.V.E.S. at P.O. Box 331, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Reminder -- we only accept cash and checks at this time, though we do plan to launch an electronic donation option soon in 2021.

If you've volunteered to join [G.I.V.E.S.](#) and host Saturday morning collections, you should have received an email with a link to a Sign-Up Genius. Please choose the date/time that works best for you in 2021. And if you haven't joined G.I.V.E.S. but are looking for a way to become involved in your local community, help others less fortunate, and can spare **JUST 2 HOURS PER YEAR**, please contact us at garretparkgives@gmail.com.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all who donated masks, hats, gloves, scarves and coats to G.I.V.E.S. We delivered 6 huge bags full of warm winter gear to Thrive DC for which they were enormously grateful!

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2021!

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

GP Women's Club

Garrett Park Holiday Decorating Contest 2020

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

- Best Door/Window: 10804 Kenilworth (Ann & Jim Mallen)
- Best Porch: 4605 Waverly (Tracey & Barry Liden)
- Kid's Award: 10903 Kenilworth (Alicia & Jason Bone)
- Best Yard: 4419 Cambria (Jean Horan & Phil Schulp)
- Most Creative: 11119 Kenilworth (Leila Holtsman, Rosie & Dave Rubenstein)
- Most Charming: 4705 Argyle (Jess Trinh & Sean Bailey)
- Elves Award: 4708 Argyle (Fumi Tamaki & John Hillery)
- Best Trees: 10800 Montrose/4700 Oxford (Conze/Luce Families)
- Mayor's Award: 10909 Clermont (Liz & Matt Pappano)
- Best House: 10700 Montrose (Jennifer & Brian Hicks)

Congratulations to all! Thank you for brightening our town and adding joy!

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Letter from the Mayor

Dear Residents,

Calendar year 2020 has been like no other in recent history. A rampant pandemic that has upended our lives in ways we never could have imagined, causing death, heartache and suffering, job loss and business closings, stress and frustration. We've endured 14-day quarantines, face masks and social distancing, a run on paper towels and toilet paper, outside dining and curbside pickups, virtual meetings and remote learning, etc. You know this list as well as I.

Yet there were upsides as well. We came together to support BLM, protest social injustice, stand up for democratic ideals, and vote in the largest national presidential election in history. We showed kindness and understanding towards our neighbors, unleashed our creativity, spent more time outdoors strolling and exercising, tackled unfinished projects and purged our homes of old or unneeded stuff. We found fun ways to celebrate and stay connected with friends and family while remaining at safe distances. Lest we forget, we also learned to adapt, to listen more and to react less.

As we begin calendar year 2021, let's remember these positive things and continue to practice them in the new year. Remember to thank the many front-line workers who continue to provide emergency support and logistics, hospice and health care to those in need. Although COVID-19 vaccines are on their way, their distribution will take time. We must remain resilient and vigilant in our actions to reduce the spread of this virus and its variants. While it may sound like a broken record, please keep wearing masks, washing hands and staying socially distant. As we've heard many times, we'll get through this easier if we all do our part and work together.

Best wishes for a happier and healthier 2021!

Stay safe. Be well.
-Mayor Kacky