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| Sat Apr 2 | Large Item Pick-up | Mon Apr 11 | Town Council Meeting, Zoom, 7:30p |
| Sat Apr 2 | Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p | Sat Apr 16 | Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p |
| Wed Apr 6 | GP Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p | Wed Apr 20 | Arboretum Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p |
| Sat Apr 9 | Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p | Sat Apr 23 | Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p |
| Mon Apr 11 | Nomination Petitions and Financial Disclosure Forms due by 5p | Wed Apr 27 | Virtual Candidates Forum, Zoom, 8p |
| | | Sat Apr 30 | Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p |

Committee Members. Three standing committees—Arboretum, Archives, and Historic Preservation—had a total of nine open positions that needed to be filled. The new members' terms will be staggered so that not all appointments end at the same

time. The mayor presented a list of candidates for the council to consider. The slate of new members was quickly approved unanimously.

Budget. This action item was the biggie for the evening, and discussion went on for a long time. The problem for your reporter is how to reduce all that detail for this short report. Most of the discussion was about individual line items—should or should not a particular budget item be increased or not. For example, the draft budget included a three-percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for town employees plus a one-time \$1,000 bonus. After a bit of discussion, the council indicated its agreement with this. The only reasonable approach is to skip all of the line-by-line detail and provide readers with a sense of the discussion or one or two of the more significant spending proposals. For those who want to know more about the detailed discussion, please check the official minutes or listen to the [recording](#) of the meeting.

The big picture is that the draft budget anticipates \$1.6 million in revenues, to be spent in the form of \$1.4 million in operating expenses and approximately \$0.2 million “spent” as a transfer to the capital budget. The overall revenue represents a 4.5-percent increase in town receipts, but a reduction in anticipated carryover of funds from the previous year. On the spending side, operating expenditures are forecast to decline by 1.2 percent, mainly because several expenditures the previous year had come to an end. In the context of these overall revenue and expenditure figures, three things interested your reporter.

First, councilmember Paczkowski noted that, overall, town expenditures have risen a lot over the past four-to-five years, and perhaps the council needs to think broadly about whether increased expenditures are justified. Such a discussion did not take place at this meeting. The subsequent detailed line-item-level discussion was about increases; no one recommended reducing expenditures on any items, although, as noted above, total operating expenditures in the draft budget were anticipated to decline a bit.

Second, the budget work session in February had included presentation of a proposal for a new expenditure to hire a fulltime assistant town manager, and this was then built into the draft budget. The proposed salary range is \$75,000-\$85,000. With this new position, and with the COLA increase, the line item for salaries increases 18 percent from the previous fiscal year. This particular increase received little discussion at the March meeting, but there was a lengthy explanation of why the new position was being proposed in the explanatory text accompanying the draft budget. Presumably, the town council will discuss and vote on whether to authorize this new position at a future council meeting.

Third, the expenditures in the draft budget do not include anything related to spending the ARPA funds. At roughly one million dollars, the ARPA money is equivalent to 70 percent of total operating expenditures (though the ARPA funds will be spent over two or three years). Therefore, a further debate will occur at council meetings in coming months,

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with input from the new ARPA task force, about how to spend the ARPA funds. That will alter some items in the budget for both operating expenditures and capital expenditures.

The lengthy discussion of the draft budget produced a handful of relatively small changes. The vote to introduce it with the changes passed unanimously.

At this point in time, it was almost 10:20 p.m. In light of the late hour, the council agreed to skip the usual updates by each councilmember on the issues they are responsible for. The town manager’s monthly report was also abridged, but the full report will be available on the town website. With that, the long 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.

Town Manager’s Notes

2022 Town Election – This year’s Town Election will be held on Monday, May 2, 2022. Voters will select candidates for the offices of Mayor and Councilmember (the two seats currently held by Gerilee Bennett and Mario Grande).

Those elected on May 2 will take office at the next Council meeting after the election (Monday, May 9). Their terms of office will be two years.

All candidates for office shall be citizens of the United States, have resided in the Town for at least one year prior to their election, and be qualified voters of the Town.

The Nominations Meeting was hosted by the Citizens Association on Wednesday, March 23. The following nominations were made:

Office of Mayor

Kacky Chaney
Joanna Welch

Office of Councilmember

Gerilee Bennett
Lisa Max

Nominations are also being accepted by a petition signed by ten registered voters and filed with the Town Manager at least 21 days before the date of

the Town Election (5:00 pm on Monday, April 11, 2022).

All candidates for elected office are required to file a Financial Disclosure Form with the Town no later than 21 days prior to the Town Election (5:00 pm on Monday, April 11, 2022). Failure to file the required financial disclosure form shall result in the removal of the candidate’s name from the election ballot.

Important Dates:

- Monday, April 11, 2022 – Virtual Town Council meeting at 7:30 pm
- Monday, April 11, 2022 – Deadline for candidates to file petition for elected office – 5:00 pm
- Monday, April 11, 2022 – Deadline for candidates to file Financial Disclosure Form – 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, April 27, 2022 – Virtual Candidates Forum at 8:00 pm

State Tax Form – Whether you fill out your own State income tax forms or have someone prepare them for you, please be sure that “Garrett Park” is written in the box labeled “City, Town or Taxing Area.” Income tax receipts are one of the Town’s most significant revenue sources, so it’s very important that our community receives its fair share of the monies distributed by the State.

FY 2023 Town Budget – The FY 2023 budget ordinance was introduced at the March Town Council Meeting. The budget will be considered for adoption by the Town Council on April 11. Real property and personal property tax rates are proposed to remain unchanged.

Upcoming Projects – At the February 15 meeting, the Town Council authorized execution of a contract with D&F Construction, Inc. for the Sidewalk Improvements Project. Work will be performed along Oxford and Waverly (from the Kenilworth/Waverly triangle to Montrose).

The Town Maintenance Staff is gearing up for spring tree planting. Additionally, the Town is in the process of obtaining price quotations for removal of dying or diseased trees as well as tree pruning along Strathmore Avenue.

Regular Reminders:

Communication. Are you new to Town? Contact the Town Office at (301) 933-7488 so we can get you up to speed with what you need to know about living in Garrett Park.

We also encourage all residents to sign up for the resident’s portal, as it provides the Town Office with one more way to reach you. You can register at www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal

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. The Town permit 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.

If you live in the County designated historic area, please keep in mind that some projects may require a Historic Area Work Permit.

As always, please reach out to the Town Office with any questions or concerns. You can reach me at (301) 933-7488 or at managerbarb@garrettparkmd.gov.

Barb Matthews, Interim Town Manager

Citizens Association Notes

Thank you to everyone who attended our virtual nominations meeting! We used that meeting as an opportunity to discuss the appropriate venue for the upcoming Candidates Forum. After taking those comments into consideration, we have decided to hold the Candidates Forum online via Zoom. The Forum will be held on Wednesday, April 27, at 8 pm. We will send out the zoom link as well as more details about the Forum in an email to the neighborhood listservs.

Annual Dues. The CA 2022 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Jean Christian Abels

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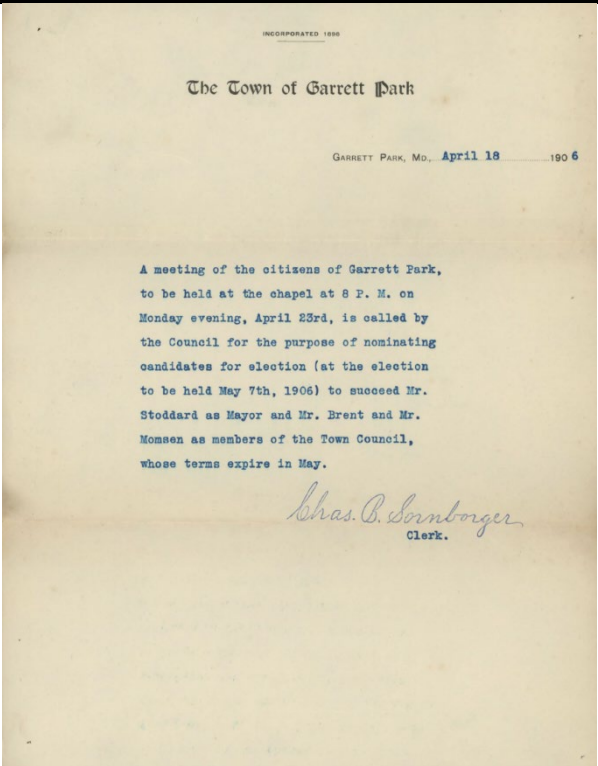
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Tuckerman

10401

Grosvenor Place

Market



As Garrett Park prepares for another election, this month we go back 116 years to the election of 1906. On a clear, cold evening in late April, town residents gathered at St. James Chapel (today’s Town Hall) to nominate candidates for town offices. According to newspaper accounts, Josiah Stoddard, the town’s two-term mayor, declined nomination for a third term. Council member Vivian Brent also did not seek reelection on account of moving to Georgetown. With Stoddard and Brent bowing out, this left council member Hart Momsen—father of Charles, inventor of the Momsen Lung—seeking Office of the Mayor and political newcomers David Bisset and James S. Dougall for Town Council. All three men ran uncontested.

Momsen, a German immigrant, came to Garrett Park around 1902. He worked as a Division Chief for the U.S. Census Bureau. He served as Mayor for one term before turning his attention to his new career as a farmer. His wife, Susie, was an accomplished musician who trained at the conservatory of music in Hamburg, Germany. In 1914, the Momsen family moved to Minnesota.

Bisset, a Scottish immigrant, also moved to Garrett Park around 1902. He worked as a horticulturist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Plant Industry Division. Bisset served a total of four terms on the Town Council (1906–1912 and 1919–1921). He and his wife, Euphemia, remained in Garrett Park until their deaths in the late 1940s.

Dougall was born in New York and came to Garrett Park in the late 1890s. He worked as a clerk for the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Dougall, a Civil War veteran, served on the Town Council until 1911. In May 1929, at the age of 90, he died at his Garrett Park home. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Claire McDonald, MLIS
Town Archivist
Garrett Park, MD
Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov

Meal Train

If you or one of your Garrett Park neighbors would benefit from receiving some meals due to a life change (e.g., giving birth, adopting, illness, surgery, or loss), please contact Nikki Forry (nikki.forry@gmail.com, 202-641-7389). She will be happy to set up a Meal Train and send it out to the neighborhood listservs.

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Get to Know Your Neighbor

The “Get to Know Your Neighbor” feature is a creation of the Bugle’s Audience Engagement Editor, Meg Wendt. All neighbors are worth getting to know, but if you have someone special in mind, let us know! This month’s feature is on Lisa Marinucci.

Where do you live? I live in Rockville (Aspen Hill) area.
How long have you lived and/or worked here? I have been working in the Garrett Park Neighborhood since Aug 2013.
Why did you choose to live/work in Garrett Park? I chose Garrett Park Elementary from another guard who told me that I would be an excellent fit. So, when the school I was originally assigned to closed for renovations, I took the opportunity to come to Garrett Park.
Tell us about...being the Garrett Park Elementary crossing guard. Why did you decide to take on this role? So, being a crossing guard in such an amazing neighborhood has been a fantastic experience. Everyday is different. I love seeing

everyone. I enjoy getting to know all the children and hearing how their weekend was to hearing about what happened in school that day. Coming from a police family (including my dad, my sister and brother-in-law), I wanted to serve and protect the community like they do. So now I'm honored to protect and serve as a civilian in the police department.

What is your proudest career accomplishment and why? Teaching safety awareness. Explaining what to look out for when crossing the street. What to do and what not to do. It is wonderful to see that they really do listen.

What do you like most about living/working in Garrett Park? The people. Everyone has been terrific. It's nice to be recognized whether I'm in uniform or just being a regular person.

What are your favorite local shops, restaurants or hangouts? I really don't go out much.

If you were to suddenly find yourself with a free afternoon on a beautiful day, where could we most likely find you? I like to go on walks.

What is your current recommendation for streaming? I just have Facebook.

What else would you like to share about yourself or your family? I have been married to my husband, Sal, for almost 27 years. I have two children Nicole 25 Vince 22. I have been living in Rockville for 25 years. I grew up in Takoma Park. I have been a crossing guard since August 2009.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Garrett Park Community.



Town Wide Yard Sale in May

After a two-year COVID hiatus, the town yard sale is back! Mark your calendars for Garrett Park's annual spring yard sale on Saturday, May 21 from 8 am - 1 pm.

Participation is free. Send an email to ToddHarrisHomes@gmail.com with your name, location and items being sold. Maps of the participants' locations and types of items being sold at each location will be available outside of 10909 Kenilworth Avenue the day of the yard sale. Directional signs will be provided throughout the neighborhood to help people navigate the yard sale.

Get excited and start your spring cleaning now to round up items for the yard sale! Garrett Park Estates and White Flint Park are also having a yard sale the same day.

Dawn Harris

Three Ways to Jump-start Spring Decluttering

If you're like most people, the idea of decluttering may not initially spark joy, but once you put in the effort, the end result always does. As a professional organizer, I always strive for my clients to feel empowered in decluttering, and these three simple steps come in handy for creating space for what matters.

1. The Fifteen-Minute Win

One of my organizing icons, Shira Gill, author of *Minimalista*, recommends "just try it for fifteen minutes." The principle is that you can do anything for fifteen minutes and if you tell yourself that, you're more likely to get started. Once you actually get started, odds are, you may decide to keep tackling that task for even longer. The key is to pick one single task such as "sort out expired spices" or "pick out clothing to donate from just one drawer." Next, set a timer, and allow any resistance that comes up to stay there. For example, if you feel uncomfortable, that's okay. By letting the discomfort linger, and working through it, you are practicing perseverance and it will make you feel more at ease each time this feeling comes up in the future.

2. Word Choice Matters

When I was a collegiate runner at Penn State, we had this amazing sports psychologist, Dave Yukelson, who would coach athletes on overcoming the head games that get in the way of personal success. When my legs started giving out after going into the last lap of the mile, I would repeat a mantra of "you can do this." The same thing stands true with decluttering and organizing. It really helps to keep your words (both in your head and spoken) positive. Instead of using the term "purging," which envisions something from *The Exorcist*, try using "editing" because it reframes the action in a positive light. You, the owner of your belongings, are making a concentrated, happy effort, to edit out what you don't need. See, didn't that just sound beautiful and empowering?

3. Never underestimate how good it feels to give something you're not using to someone who needs it

I once read this on a fellow organizer's Instagram, and it puts in perspective how those things that are collecting dust, and we're keeping "just in case" could be actually used all the time by someone else. Think, that shirt that you never wear, those kids shoes that you bought, but your child never wore, or has grown out of, your extra luggage that you already

replaced, but are keeping for that one time...just in case.

Our town is really great at donating to others what we no longer need, and it was inspiring to see the used bedding and towels suggestions on the listserv recently. I actually didn't know that Goodwill had stopped accepting these used linens, and appreciate how Suzanne Romero compiled and shared out the recommendations she was given. (Feel free to email me, hello@roamingdarling.com, and I can forward it to you if you missed it).

Since our family moved to Garrett Park in February of 2020, I've never gotten to experience the Town Wide Yard Sale, but am so glad that it's back, and looking forward to taking part in the fun on May 21st. If you're interested in participating, you can send an email to ToddHarrisHomes@gmail.com. According to Dawn and Todd Harris' email, Garrett Park Estates and White Flint Park are also having a yard sale on the same day. Along with donating items, a yard sale is an awesome collaborative way for goods to find homes that will actually use those items.

And, by the way, if you're still scared to get rid of that "just in case" item, remember, just like our town is generous in donating items to others, our town is also so welcoming when it comes to sharing. So, if you happen to give something away that you find later you actually need, I'm sure someone would be more than happy to lend it to you for that "one time" you do need it.

Meg Wendt is the Bugle's Audience Engagement Editor. She is a professional organizer and owns Roaming Darling, a company that specializes in organizing, downsizing, and senior move management. She and her husband Mic, owner of Mic's Moving (HQ'd in Town of Kensington), live on Kenilworth with their two-year-old Mac, and their 10-month-old Miles.

Bugle Town Governance Series

This is the sixth installment of the *Bugle Town Governance Series*. Written by experienced citizens of Garrett Park, these essays are designed to answer fundamental questions about the role of your local government, how it fits within the larger county, state and national governmental functions, and how you, as citizens of Garrett Park, can get involved. If you are interested in reading about a topic (or if you want to author a topic), or if you have a comment about what you read, please do not hesitate to email the Bugle. The opinions expressed are solely those of the author(s).

We continue with a two-part series about Garrett Park's status as an arboretum. Jenny Krivanek has served as chair of Garrett Park's arboretum committee and has been an officer of both the Citizens Association and G.I.V.E.S.

How did Garrett Park become an Arboretum?

Like the old saying "Mighty oaks from little acorns grow," the wealth of trees in Garrett Park began with the efforts of one resident. Back in 1977,

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Barbara Shidler, then living with her husband Atlee and family at 11015 Kenilworth, noticed that the beautiful old trees that had been planted along the streets in the early years of the town were reaching the end of their lives.

Barbara was also thinking about her parents -- hard-working people who'd supported a large family by working in orange groves and gardens in California -- and how to honor them in some lasting way. In that alchemy of thoughts an idea was born.

"It occurred to me that it would be much more interesting if, instead of going up to [the local garden center] on the pike...that [Garrett Park] could have something really exciting if we planned what we put on the streets and if we tried to get variety and expand our palate."

"I talked about this to my husband. He said, 'Well, that's not a bad idea. Why don't you see if it'll fly?' So I went to a [Town] council meeting and said, 'I would like to propose that we make the town an arboretum and that, from now on, we plant with that consideration in mind.'... The council... said, 'Sounds good. Get a committee and do it.' So we got a committee and I made a budget, and they gave us the money."

And with that, they were off and running. The committee worked locally with Brookside Gardens, and over the next several years Barbara, Atlee and other members of the committee visited plant nurseries, public gardens and arboreta. "People gave us trees because they thought it was a nifty idea... Things came in when people heard about the idea, because they thought it was sort of intriguing that a town would do this." Committee members raised trees from seeds and fostered tiny saplings until they were big enough to plant.

The committee planted in a spirit of experimentation, and Barbara kept records of what worked, and what failed and why. The historical records were folded into the 2018 inventory of town trees that now powers [the online map of Arboretum trees](#).

They also planted with the goal of diversity. "One of the things we tried to do was not only to make variety in the different genera so that we'd have oaks and maples and everything else we could think of. But also, within each genus, we tried to make variety and choose the best species that were available on the market.... We have done things that we hoped would be useful not only to the town but to private property owners." That thinking continues to guide Arboretum choices. Not including town parks, the 2018 inventory counted 1,509 trees representing more than 183 species and 78 genera!

Over time Barbara's idea for an arboretum took root. The town hired Phil Normandy, whom Barbara got to know at Brookside Gardens and "who has forgotten more things than most of us will ever know," as its consulting arborist. And in 1994, the town formalized the establishment of the Arboretum and Arboretum Committee through the adoption of Section 717 of the Town's Code of Ordinances.

Today Barbara Shidler's desire to leave a lasting legacy lives on. You can still see many of the unusual trees that Barbara introduced, including a Blue China

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fir (*Cunninghamia lanceolata* ‘Glauca’) #599 at the foot of Rokeby, a Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) #2022 in the evergreen grove by the Cambria ballfield, and a Hardy Rubber tree (*Eucommia ulmoides*) #1508 at 10712 Keswick.

The Arboretum Committee in collaboration with Phil Normandy continues to add to the collection. In addition to choosing for beauty and interest, today we also plant with a commitment to ecological value and sustainability in a changing climate. Stay tuned for the new additions coming to town this spring!

[Many thanks to Town Archivist Claire McDonald for the oral histories that provided all the quotes in this article. They were an absolute pleasure to read.]

A Giant Falls

A massive oak disappeared last week in just half a day.

Four men did the job: the operator of a sixty foot crane, a climber, chain saw dangling from his belt, and two men on the ground.

The team left a hole in the sky, a truck load of chips, and a six foot pile of branches to cut and split for firewood. Two trucks loaded with sections of the massive trunk grunted into gear and took off for the mill. The sections will be seasoned, then cut into timber.

I enjoyed this tree’s shade for years, watched its shadow spread across the yard, the moon creep through the dark tracery of its branches. An expert read its rings, pronounced its age to be 118.

One small brown acorn pushed its tiny white root into the earth at this spot in the spring of 1892.

I celebrate the sturdiness and beauty of this resident who grew up with our town.

From *Caught Moon* by Barbara Shidler



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