



Calendar

Sat Dec 3	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Mon Dec 12	GP Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30p
Wed Dec 7	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30p	Tues Dec 13	Garrett Park JAMS, Town Hall, 7p – 9p
Fri Dec 9	Holiday Caroling, Town Hall, 7p	Sat Dec 17	Chicano Sol Farm Stand & GIVES Collection, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Sat Dec 10	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Tues Dec 20	Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30p
Sat Dec 10	Santa returns to Garrett Park! Town Hall, 3p – 5p	Mon Dec 26	Town Office Closed

*\*No Arboretum Committee Meeting this month*

Town Council Meeting Notes

Big news! For the first time in two-and-a-half years, the town council meeting was held in person at the town hall. For the benefit of anyone who wanted to attend without showing up in person, though, the meeting was also accessible through Zoom. Your reporter chose to attend in person. How nostalgic to be back in the town hall! Only four residents other than your reporter showed up in person, which was typical of many pre-pandemic meetings. I do not know how many residents watched the meeting with Zoom this time, but during the dark years of Zoom only, typically as many as 10-to-12 residents were in attendance.

The meeting itself was fairly routine—plenty of discussion but only one action item requiring a formal vote. Councilmember Bennet was out of town, but she participated on Zoom.

First up were presentations by residents, of which there were two, both on Rokeby. The first was regarding a nonfunctioning streetlamp on Rokeby and the second was a concern that cars have poor visibility making left turns onto the North side of Kenilworth due to visual obstructions. These presentations resulted in some discussion among councilmembers, the mayor, and the town manager about streetlights. The town manager will investigate these issues.

The town manager’s monthly report came next. Check the written report on the town website for the details. In her oral presentation, town manager Matthews focused on a couple of items. The revised personnel manual is being reviewed by the town lawyer and should be ready for approval at the

December meeting. In addition, she noted that invasive vines and shrubs removed from Cambria Park are not being chipped at the present time. Since the wood chips are used around the town, the berries could spread these plants to other locations. The vines and shrubs have been sprayed to kill the seeds but must now sit until the berries are decomposed before chipping.

The single action item was approval of revised town rules for information access. The state law concerning public access to government records was revised in 2015, and Garrett Park needs to revise its own rules to be in compliance. After some discussion the revised rules were passed unanimously.

New business consisted of three items—a name for the former Yeandle property on Kenilworth, an extension of fencing at the nursery school, and direction of use of the million dollars the town has received under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The town advisory committee on Yeandle property issues is recommending that it be named the Yeandle Grove. That was informally approved by councilmembers. The committee also submitted a drawing of a sign that could be set up at the site, with the name and a comment about “coming in the future.” Committee member Mandel noted that he and other committee members are being asked frequently about when the work to remove the house and carry out new landscaping will occur. The conclusion was that some sort of notification should be placed there, probably when the house demolition contract is signed, but not the specific sign proposal presented by the committee. As part of that discussion, the mayor raised the general issue on the

role that committees play in the town and the specificity of the instructions given to them, sparked by her sense that the sign proposed was beyond the mandate of the committee.

The Garrett Park Nursery School has a fence part way around its property as a safety measure for the playground. The school would like to extend the fence completely around the playground. The town council expressed general agreement on installing a fence in principle but would like to see a design proposal. In addition, there was some discussion about who will pay for it—the school, the town, or both? That will require further discussion by the council and with the school.

The mayor raised the issue of general guidance on how to use the ARPA funds received by the town. This discussion went on for some time. The main thrust was to use most or all of the money for renovation of the Town Hall, which readers may recall was the recommendation of the ARPA advisory committee, presented at the June council meeting. But there was some concern about timing. The money must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and actually spent by December 31, 2026. The renovation project is proceeding at a slow pace, creating possible problems in meeting these deadlines. Therefore, it might be necessary to use ARPA funds for other projects (such as the work on the sidewalk on Waverly next to the tennis court and basketball court) and shift the money for these projects that is already in the town budget over to the Town Hall account. Last month I reported that the town manager expected to have a request for proposals (RFP) on town hall renovation, based on the extensive discussion at the September meeting, ready for the council’s consideration. Since the RFP was not on the November agenda there was no discussion of it.

Ending the evening were the monthly updates.

**Arboretum committee.** Councilmember Bennett noted the successful, well-attended fall tree walk with the town Arborist.

**Speed bumps.** Councilmember Dobosz noted the petition for speed bumps on Weymouth that the town government has received. This this will require working with a traffic consultant.

**Archives.** Councilmember Max said archivist McDonald is working on what the archives can do for the town’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, as well for a possible Chevy House tour.

**Parks and Open Spaces Committee.**

Councilmember Max talked about the area by the basketball court. Apparently, there have been suggestions at the committee for some sort of amphitheater next to the sidewalk on Waverly by the basketball court. But the sidewalk renovation can occur first without interfering with whatever eventually emerges from the amphitheater discussion.

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](mailto: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

### Important Dates:

- Monday, December 12, 2022 –Town Council Meeting – 7:30 pm
- Monday, December 26, 2022 – Town Office closed for Christmas holiday
- Monday, January 2, 2023 – Town Office closed for New Year’s holiday

**Leaf Collection** – The Town contracted with Bethke Landscaping to provide once a week collection of leaves. Service will be provided through the end of December. Leaves will be collected as early in the week as possible, but rain or inclement weather will delay their pickup.

- Leaves should be placed in rows alongside the street side of the curb so that they are accessible for pickup by truck.
- Please be mindful of the placement of the leaves to avoid blocking storm drains.
- Any sticks, rocks, trash, and other debris should be removed from the leave piles as they can damage machinery and will not be collected by Bethke.
- Shredded leaves and grass clippings should be bagged and put out for the regular yard waste collection on Mondays.
- Parents, please discourage your children from playing in the leaves along the curb.

**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 Office will collect contributions through mid-January.

**Birthday Pencils** – Is your child celebrating a birthday? Garrett Park youths are invited to stop by the Town Office to get a celebratory birthday pencil, engraved with the Town of Garrett Park.

The birthday pencil distribution is an initiative of Mayor Joanna Welch to connect the younger members of the community with their Town government. So please bring your child by the Town Office to get their gift, meet the Town staff, and learn a little bit about Town operations.

**Snow Removal and Sidewalk Clearing** – With the official start of the winter season only a few weeks away, just a few reminders about actions you can



take to help the Town and community members navigate inclement weather.

- Please park off the streets when snow is expected so that the Town maintenance staff can clear curb to curb where possible. This will allow for more space to park after the streets are plowed.
- Please be a good neighbor and clear the sidewalk in front of your home of ice and snow for safe pedestrian use. If clearing is not practicable, then residents should spread sand on the ice and snow. In accordance with the Town Code, sidewalk clearing should take place within 24 hours of a snowfall or freeze.

**Work in the Historic District** – If you live in the County-designated [Historic District](#), please keep in mind that some exterior projects require a [Historic Area Work Permit](#) (HAWP). HAWPs are issued by the County, not the Town. Projects requiring a HAWP include, but are not limited to, home additions; demolishing or altering exterior materials; installation of fences, walkways, retaining walls, decks, window/siding/roof replacement; and, tree removal. See the full list of historic Garrett Park properties [here](#).

**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 [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. A Montgomery County permit is required in addition to the Garrett Park permit. Be sure to complete your Garrett Park permit application and submit along with your plat and drawings to the Town Office before submitting your County permit application. Town permit applications and payment can be completed at: [garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits](#).

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

Barb Matthews, Town Manager



**9am-9pm Mon-Sat**  
**9am-7pm Sunday**  
301-493-6217  
[www.grosvenormarket.com](#)

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**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.

Call Todd today, your local neighborhood realtor!



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~ Garrett Park resident ~

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# GIVES

Greetings from [GIVES](#)! We are so proud to be part of such a generous community. At our **Soup Supper** fundraiser last month, we had a stellar turnout with over 50 friends and neighbors in attendance and nearly 2 dozen spectacular soups, salads and breads to share. Thank you to those who joined us for this meaningful and nourishing Garrett Park 45+ year tradition. The best part...GIVES raised nearly \$2,000 for the organizations we support, [Stepping Stones Shelter](#) and [Thrive DC](#). As we heard from the representatives of these 2 worthy organizations, the recent economy and high prices of basic needs including food, gas and particularly housing has been extremely hard on the vulnerable families and constituents they support who are working towards independence and stability, so your monetary donations are more appreciated now than ever.

Thankfully, with the pandemic winding down, both facilities are again accepting material donations and have reopened to volunteers. Here are a few ways you can have a direct and valuable impact on the people these vital organizations support during the 2022 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.
- Volunteer to tutor, help with childcare or assist with shelter tasks at Stepping Stones by filling out this [application](#).
- Donate exactly what Thrive DC needs by buying items off their [Amazon Wish List](#).

The **GIVES Warm Coat Collection** will run until December 20<sup>th</sup> at the post office. Please leave new or gently used winter coats in the box at the PO and we'll deliver them to Thrive DC before Christmas. This year, men's coats are most needed. Blankets, sweaters and winter accessories are also welcomed.

The **GIVES Toiletries Collection** for Thrive DC is up and running again. Please bring unused travel-sized toiletries to the post office and leave them in the basket on the table. Soap, lotion and deodorant are most needed.

Thinking about a year end donation of what to give a friend who has everything? Please remember **GIVES Gift Donation Cards** will be available at our upcoming monthly collection table on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the post office or by mail any time of year. Send your donation check to GIVES at P.O. Box 331, Garrett Park, MD 20896 and we'll mail one back to you.

If you've volunteered to join [GIVES](#) and host Saturday morning collections, you will soon receive an email with a link to a Sign-Up Genius. Please choose the date/time that works best for you in 2023. And if you haven't joined GIVES 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 [garrettparkgives@gmail.com](mailto:garrettparkgives@gmail.com).

Wishing you a healthy and joyous holiday season.

With gratitude,

Molly Shuck and Natalie Grande (Co-Presidents) and  
Therese Keating (Treasurer)

## From the Town Archives

This month, I would like to share a few updates from the Archives.

Recently, I reorganized and created a descriptive guide for the Town Anniversaries Collection, which includes documents, photographs, and memorabilia related to town birthday celebrations from 1958 through 1998. For example, in 1958, Garrett Park celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an incorporated town. The Town Anniversaries Collection contains fun memorabilia from this celebration, including an embellished dance card from the Jubilee Ball and scripts from several skits that tell the story of the town's beginnings and other significant events.



I have also been pulling together our COVID-19 Collection, which serves to preserve a record of events surrounding Garrett Park's experience with the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the collection is small—it includes a handful of poems submitted by town residents, various emails related to the town's response to COVID measures, and some photographs I took of signs and announcements around town. I know the collection would benefit from more firsthand accounts, and I invite you to submit your experiences, thoughts, photographs, artwork, or other materials to the Archives so that we can preserve this history. Please email me at [Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov](mailto:Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov) for more information (or any other questions you may have).

Claire McDonald  
Town Archivist



# Santa Comes to Town



Saturday December 10 Town Hall

Sing along with George Oakley 3p.m

Santa Arrives 3:45

Cookies, Candycanes

