



Calendar

Thu Feb 3	Tai Chi, 6:30p and 8p, Town Hall	Wed Feb 16	Arboretum Committee Meeting, 7p, Zoom
Sat Feb 5	Farmers Market, 9a Penn Place	Thu Feb 17	Tai Chi, 6:30p and 8p, Town Hall
Mon Feb 7	Yoga, 6:30p, Town Hall	Sat Feb 19	Farmers Market, 9a Penn Place
Wed Feb 9	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, 7:30p, Zoom	Mon Feb 21	Presidents' Day – Town Office Closed
Thu Feb 10	Tai Chi, 6:30p and 8p, Town Hall	Thu Feb 24	Tai Chi, 6:30p and 8p, Town Hall
Sat Feb 12	Farmers Market, 9a Penn Place	Sat Feb 26	Farmers Market, 9a Penn Place
Mon Feb 14	Yoga, 6:30p, Town Hall Town Council Meeting, 7:30p, Zoom	Mon Feb 28	Yoga, 6:30p, Town Hall

Town Council Meeting Notes

Winter is a time to slow down, relax, and play in the snow if there is any. This year, the January Town Council meeting followed that pattern. It was rather quiet and even included a reference to playing in the snow. The approval of the agenda and the draft minutes of the December meeting were speedily approved with only one minor change to the agenda.

Presentations by residents is always an unknown: will there be anyone speaking up? This month there were two presentations. The first was by Liz King, who lives on Argyle (a.k.a. the sledding hill). Her concern was that the long tradition of using Argyle for sledding is not doing well. In the snowstorm on January 3, a large postal truck got stuck going up Argyle and in the process of getting out, ruined the snow for sledding. In addition, she noted, when the section for sledding is ended at the intersection of Argyle and Montrose, the result is both unsatisfying and dangerous for sledding. She posed three questions that she hoped could be clarified by the town government: What is the area of the sledding hill? When and where should the cones be set? Who is responsible for placing the cones to mark the boundaries of the hill? She ended with a plea that the Town continue to be a place that cares about kids playing in the snow.

The second presentation was a question raised by Jack Mandel, of Rokeby Avenue. He asked if the Town would consider use of the Town Hall for the Garrett Park Men's Book Club. This group usually meets at members' houses, but in the Covid

pandemic, it would be helpful to use the Town Hall so that the group could meet in a socially distanced situation.

Mayor Kacky said that she would discuss the presenters' matters with Town staff. With that, the meeting moved on to New Business: the Town's election process for 2022, and the issue of a fence planned by Lerner Enterprises (owners of the previous White Flint Mall) that would block access to White Flint Plaza from the path from Garrett Park Estates.

On the election, the issue is whether the Town should once again use mail-in voting since the Covid pandemic continues, and the governor's declaration of emergency remains in effect. There was no vote on this issue, but Town Manager Matthews wanted a sense of the Council so she could start planning for the election. Councilmembers seemed united in favoring a mail-in vote again this year.

The Lerner Enterprises issue was mainly one of the mayor letting the council know what she and others have been doing to maintain some form of pedestrian access. Lerner Enterprises intends to install a fence to prevent pedestrian to its property, which would block off the path from White Flint Park (at the end of Rokeby in Garrett Park Estates). That path provides access to White Flint Plaza and beyond. She and others have reached out to both County Councilmember Evan Glass and State Senator Al Carr about maintaining this access. The mayor's sense was that the County Council is eager to find a solution that maintains this access, perhaps involving an agreement in which the County would

pay for redoing the path to pass outside the edge of the Lerner property.

On to the monthly updates.

American Rescue Plan. Recall that the Town is receiving approximately one million dollars under the law passed early last year to help cities and towns recover from the economic impact of Covid.

Councilmember Dubosz indicated that a subset of the many volunteers to serve on the task force have been selected. The final rules governing permissible uses for these funds have been issued and she will meet with the town lawyer to go over them. Then the task force can get to work.

Stormwater. Councilmember Schulp said there were no new developments to report.

Strathmore Redevelopment at St. Angela Hall.

Councilmember Bennet explained that the hearing that had been scheduled for December 27 has been postponed and lengthened into a three-day hearing to begin on January 31, given the controversial nature of the issues involved. There was some discussion of hiring someone with expertise on issues raised by real estate development projects to assist the Town in presenting its concerns about the project, which all councilmembers seemed to favor.

Waverly and Oxford Sidewalks. Councilmember Schulp and Mayor Kacky indicated that the bid package for replacing the Oxford (Montrose to Kenilworth) and Waverly (from the triangle to Montrose) is out, and bids from contractors are due by February 1.

Arboretum Committee. Councilmember Bennett noted that there is a tree removal request from WSSC, which raised the issue of clarifying the relationship between the Town government and WSSC in such cases. That is, does WSSC need explicit approval from the town to remove trees, or not? The committee is also looking into creating a pilot program to remove invasive plants in town.

Mayor Kacky subsequently noted that various member terms for the chartered committees were expiring (including Arboretum and Historic Preservation) and that there were vacancies on other standing committees. On January 29th the mayor emailed out a call for volunteers for the various committees.

After these updates, councilmember Schulp added one more informal notification. Work on the replacement of the changing room building at Garrett Park Swimming Pool is now underway.

Town Manager Matthews ended the meeting with the monthly town manager's report. The annual audit of town finances is now completed and filed with the state government. She also mentioned the new county program to hand out free rapid Covid test kits at Montgomery County Public Libraries. And, she is in the process of trying to find a date for the work session for the annual budget. Mayor Kacky added to this her desire to have a budget work group that includes some town residents outside the government who have expertise in budgeting. With that, the meeting adjourned

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

Important Dates

- Monday, February 14 – Virtual Town Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, February 21 – Town Office closed for Presidents' Day. There will be no change in the trash and recycling schedule.

Holiday Fund - Many thanks to the residents who generously gave tips for the Sanitation employees who take away our trash, recyclables, and yard waste. In February, letters of acknowledgement will be sent to all who donated, and a year-end gift will be made to each of the four employees.

Snow Removal – Please park off the streets when snow is expected so that the Town maintenance staff can clear curb to curb whenever possible. This will allow for more space to park after the streets are plowed.

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." Doing so will ensure that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues distributed by the state.

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. We'll get you up to speed 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. 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.

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. You can reach me at (301) 933-7488 or at managerbarb@garrettparkmd.gov.

Wishing all of you a wonderful 2022!

Barb Matthews,
Interim Town Manager

Citizens Association Notes

The Citizens Association held its virtual meeting on January 29 and it ushered in a new slate of officers for the 2022 year. Alysia Bone is stepping down as President, and Therese Keating is stepping down as Treasurer. We thank them both for their excellent service on the Board and to the Town, especially when the pandemic frustrated all our traditional gatherings.

The incoming officers for 2022 are:

- Steve Welker, President
- Tom DiChiara, Vice President
- Rory Smith, Treasurer
- Betty Fout, Secretary

Stay tuned for updates from the CA over our plans for the year!

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From the Town Archives

This month I am sharing updates from the Town Archives. As the following graphic shows, 2021 was an active year in our little Archives. Among the highlights: I accepted several new donations to enhance our historical collections, and I assisted Town Office staff in managing more than 10 years of inactive town records. I also responded to 42 research requests and inquiries on a wide range of topics,

including house histories, old photographs of landmarks, the Garrett Park Pool, and decades' old storm drain projects.



Even better, 2022 is off to a good start! Already this year, I've received a few photograph donations, including a wonderful digital collection from professional photographer Les Henig featuring former Town Mayors and staff. Also, now that we're caught up with old town records, I can once again focus on improving accessibility to some of our very cool historical collections, including oral histories, town birthday celebrations, old photographs, and miscellaneous maps and drawings. Stay tuned for an interesting and informative New Year in the Town Archives.

Claire McDonald, MLIS
Town Archivist
Garrett Park, MD

Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov
<https://garrettparkarchives.omeka.net/>

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Historic Preservation Committee

Greetings to all! As we embark on 2022, we'd like to share updates from the last year and remind the community about what we do and why.

Our mission

The mission of the all-volunteer Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee (GPHPC) is to help preserve and enhance our town's overall historic nature, always keeping in mind that residents will want to adapt their homes to better fit their changing needs. Our goal is to promote a reasoned and constructive approach to blending history with modernity.

You may not know that in addition to officially designated 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.

Our town's historic status

"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 a mandate to maintain our town's charm and nineteenth-century village plan while accommodating change and growth. (The National Register listing does give official protection to the town as a whole -- it's called the section 106 review -- for any effects from federally-funded projects, such as sidewalks or highways.)

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](#), such as the Town Hall, were listed on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Montgomery County's role

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

Speedier HAWPs

Good news from HPC: to make the HAWP process speedier and less cumbersome for homeowners, the Historic Preservation staff can rule on minor renovations, such as installing storm windows or repairing shutters. Even for more complex renovations, they make recommendations to the commissioners which can mean quicker approval.

[Tax credit program for historic properties](#)

If your home is a [Montgomery County-designated historic property](#), you may be eligible for tax credits for documented expenses for exterior maintenance, restoration, or preservation work. The

tax credit is applied towards County real property taxes. The deadline for application for 2021 credits is April 1, 2022. Not sure if your home is included? Contact our committee anytime (see emails below). **Updates on Penn Place porch and the Town Hall sign**

The Town recently received approval from the HPC to repair Penn Place's front porch and install a secure railing around it. That work is scheduled to be done in the next few months, as soon as building materials have arrived. Thus, the Black Market Bistro will be able to offer outdoor dining on its porch again. The HPC also approved a new sign for the Town Hall which will replicate the original one from 1968 when the Town acquired the building.

We welcome your questions and are happy to consult with you about your homes and projects. Look for future articles in the Bugle about historic preservation topics.

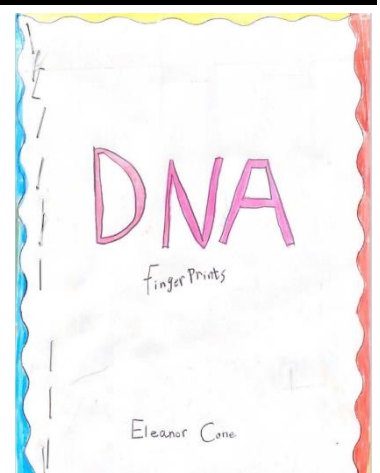
With warm wishes for a healthy year ahead,

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)

Budding Author: Eleanor Cone

Eleanor Cone (Ellie) would like you to know all about fingerprints! She wants to be a detective when she grows up, so she has written a book to share her knowledge of DNA and fingerprints.

[Click here to read the book.](#)



Any inquiries about publishing should be directed to her agent, Rachel Faulkner (aka Mom)!

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 Jim Cole of Rokeby.

Jim Cole

Where in Garrett Park do you live? We live on the little stretch of Rokeby near Wells Park that seems like it should be part of Argyle - the house next door to us is on Argyle.

How long have you lived here? 20 years. Are we still considered newcomers? Depends on who you ask.

Why did you choose to live in Garrett Park? The blame lies squarely with Henri Keller. My father-in-law knew her from conferences and meetings they both attended, and when he mentioned that Karen and I were moving to DC from California, she sang the praises of Garrett Park, and she was right!

Tell us about your favorite things to share on the GP Neighbors Listserve and why. I like writing and sending out humor pieces, when I can think of an idea. My favorite is still "The Deciders," where former members of the Town Council met in a secret room under Penn Place to spin a giant wheel of fortune to decide the fate of newcomers to town. If it landed on "Book of Job," you were in for a rough stay here.

What is your proudest career accomplishment and why? I wrote the long-forgotten MS-DOS version of Adobe Acrobat 1.0 (and yes, Acrobat on DOS was a horrible idea), but I'm proudest of helping my wife Karen found the educational non-profit Big Learning, which designs and teaches innovative, hands-on, educationally rich 'maker' projects in after school programs. We ran it and grew it for four years, then merged it with Hands On Science, and Karen ran the merged organization for several years before joining DC Public Schools.

What do you like most about living in Garrett Park? The train whistle, definitely. That train whistle is so great, especially at 2:30am. Also, that people in town span such a wide age range, and that spontaneous conversation groups often happen that include some people who moved to town before some of the other people in the conversation were even born.

What are your favorite local shops, restaurants or hangouts? Sadly, my favorite store is gone. I really miss Shoppers; they had the best donuts, and I love donuts. Pre-pandemic, I really enjoyed going to jazz clubs in DC - JoJo's, Sotto, Twins, Alice's Jazz and Cultural Society, Westminster - especially when our younger son Elijah was playing.

If you were to suddenly find yourself with a free afternoon on a beautiful day, where would we most likely find you? I'd be at Rita's in Silver Spring enjoying an ice with custard, and trying to convince Joanna Welch that Rita's is better than Carmen's.

What is your current recommendation for streaming? We really enjoyed the movie "The Peanut Butter Falcon," on Hulu.

What else would you like to share about yourself or your family? We had a family bluegrass band when we first moved to town and our boys were young. Even though the band wasn't great, we learned that you could get a lot of applause if your band has a cute 5-year old with freckles playing a little tiny fiddle, see photo.



Bugle Town Governance Series

This is the fourth installment of the *Bugle Town Governance Series*. These essays, written by experienced citizens of Garrett Park, 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).

Carolyn Shawaker served as mayor of Garrett Park from 2004 to 2008 and is a retired public-school teacher. We asked her to provide her thoughts on serving as mayor of our Town.

Thoughts on Being Mayor of Garrett Park

For forty years I taught, among other things, NSL government or national state and local government, at Walt Whitman High School. Grant me a teaching moment: in the federal system there are only state and national governments. Local governments, counties and municipalities, are chartered by state government, and only have the powers granted to them by the state, in this case by Maryland. Municipalities are in effect at the bottom of the governmental food chain. For example, municipalities can only pass laws that are more restrictive than the state law. The state of Maryland provides a 25-mph speed limit in residential areas, but Garrett Park can pass an ordinance creating a 20-mph speed limit.

The office of mayor is established in the Town's charter. The charter makes the role of mayor the CEO of the Town. The charter says:

The mayor shall see that the ordinances of the Town are faithfully executed and shall be the chief executive officer and the head of the executive branch of the Town government. The mayor shall have complete supervision over the financial administration of the Town Government.

Unlike the other municipalities in Montgomery County, our town mayor is not paid, but has plenty to do. Among other things, the mayor must represent the Town to other levels of government and other organizations, respond to residents' needs, emails, and telephone calls, negotiate and supervise contracts for town services, sign the Town's checks, supervise the Town's staff, work with the town engineer, develop the Town's budget proposal, propose the agenda for the town council meeting, work with other municipalities, respond to the press and mass media, and plan for the future. I also represented small towns on a statewide committee and went down to Annapolis every week.

For example, when I was first mayor, the new streetlights had just been installed and there were many complaints by town residents about the light shining into houses. I called the president of the company which produced the lights and convinced him to order the re-engineering of the lights and to send a crew to alter the lights.

I often said that the mayor's most important tool is the "jawbone." To answer the Town's needs, I made it my business to have the personal cell phone numbers of a good number of state and county officials in my cell phone. I also had the personal cell phone number of the vice president of Pepco, which was useful when a town resident called me at 1:30 a.m. to inform me that his power was out.

In addition to providing for the office of mayor, the charter provides for five members of the town council. The mayor proposes an agenda for the council meeting. The first item of business is "approval of the agenda" which gives council

members an opportunity to add items. Our town agenda always includes "Citizen Presentations." Once, when I was attending a statewide meeting of mayors, we were addressed by the foremost authority on state and local government. He told us that town council meetings were strictly the town's business meeting and that citizens could not be allowed to make comments. I was sitting by the mayor of Takoma Park. We looked at each other and said, "no chance of that in our towns."

When I was mayor, I was asked to speak to the classes at the elementary school. While I was speaking to the second grade about my activities as mayor, a little boy held up his hand and asked, "are you the mother of the town?"

Carolyn Shawaker

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