

Volume 69

June 2022

No. 6

Calendar

Fri June 3	National Gun Violence Awareness Day	Fri June 17	Town-Wide Street Sweeping, 8a (rain date)
Sat June 4	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Sat June 18	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Tues June 7	GP Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p	Tues June 21	Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting, Virtual, 8p
Wed June 8	Special Town Council Meeting, Virtual, 7:30p	Wed June 22	Arboretum Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p
Tues June 14	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30p	Sat June 25	Large Item Pick-up, 7a
Thurs Jun 16	Town-Wide Street Sweeping, 8a	Sat June 25	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p

Town Council Meeting Notes

Ah, spring! The time of renewal of life. Plants sprouting, flowers blooming, animals being born. And for Garrett Park, the renewal of political representation. The May town council meeting always occurs shortly after the town election. This year we elected a new mayor (Joanne Welch), re-elected one councilmember (Gerilee Bennett) and elected one new one (Lisa Max). Even though none of the positions were contested this year, the election is an important part of our local town democracy. Mayor Welch had already been sworn in, so she presided over the meeting from the beginning. Her first job as mayor was to swear in councilmembers Bennett and Max, a short and routine ceremony, but solemn and important.

After quickly approving the draft agenda (with a couple minor changes) and the minutes of the previous month’s meeting, the meeting moved on to presentations by residents, of which there were two.

John O’Sick, who lives on Clermont Avenue at the lowest spot of the road, across from the entrance to Porcupine Woods, wanted to alert the new mayor and councilmembers that stormwater problems remain on his property, and that he will continue to press the town for action. Mayor Welch responded that this issue will be a top priority for her.

Chris Keller congratulated town manager Matthews for the expanded number of helpful attachments to the monthly council meeting announcement, and asked the council to start thinking about returning to in-person meetings, or perhaps hybrid meetings.

Next on the agenda was one piece of new business. This was a resolution thanking councilmember Mario Grande (who stepped down from the council) for his service on the council. The resolution passed unanimously. The draft agenda had included a similar resolution about former-mayor Kacky’s service to the town, but she had asked that it be dropped.

New business, issues either not needing or not ready for formal votes, included five items.

- Possible mayoral proclamation on gun violence.** Mayor Welch indicated a desire to issue a mayoral proclamation proclaiming June 3 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Garrett Park. The mayor has the right to make such proclamations without a vote by the council, but she wanted to discuss the issue with councilmembers first. Two councilmembers expressed qualms about issuing such proclamations on national issues as inappropriate for the town government. Others noted that the issue itself certainly affects all the residents of the town. And, it was pointed out that the town government has a tradition of involvement in national issues, dating back at least to the declaration of Garrett Park as a nuclear-free zone in 1982. Former-mayor Peter Benjamin, who works on this issue at the state government level, noted that a number of other incorporated towns in Maryland, including Kensington and Chevy Chase, have issued similar proclamations. The mayor said she would think about the issue further before making a decision.

Continued next page

- **2022 town election technology.** Chief election judge Louise Stomierowski reviewed the experience with the scanning equipment for the town election. In general, the experience was positive and it provided a good experience for the town election judges, and did enable the quick vote tally at the end of the day.
- **Summer hiatus.** The mayor and councilmembers discussed when to have a summer hiatus. They agreed to skip the meeting in August.
- **Areas of responsibility.** Individual councilmembers are responsible for particular issues in town. Having a new councilmember, means that it is time to review and adjust the assignment of areas of responsibility. There was no action on this; the mayor simply wanted to raise the issue.
- **Update on 11321 Kenilworth Avenue.** For the benefit of the new mayor and all the councilmembers, town manager Matthews provided a set of documents about this property and explained where things stand. This is the property that Laetitia Yeandle gifted to the town. Soon, a 90-day period will commence for removal of sentimental items from the house by the family, and items of archival value to the town. Meanwhile, the town engineer will arrange for a boundary survey and topographical survey. Eventually the house will be taken down, with the possibility of some items (trim, windows, etc.) recycled or repurposed. There is no decision yet on how the property will be used—playground, benches, park.
Having waded through these new items, the meeting moved on to the regular monthly updates.
- **Arboretum Committee.** Councilmember Bennett announced that the committee has a new chair (Sean Conlan) and that various projects are moving forward.
- **American Rescue Plan.** Councilmember Dubosz said that the advisory task force has now met, mainly to receive a briefing on the government rules on how the money can or cannot be used. The date of the next meeting has not yet been decided, and the mayor expressed some concern that the date may be after the next council meeting, causing some delay on this issue. How to spend the one million dollars that the town has received from the federal government will need to be decided relatively soon.
- **Historic Preservation Committee.** Councilmember Paczkowski indicated that various issues are moving forward and that the committee would meet very soon at the Town Hall.
- **Land Use Advisory Committee.** Councilmember Paczkowski announced that this committee would meet jointly with the Historic Preservation Committee in June, since a number of their current issues overlap.
- **Town Hall Renovation.** Councilmember Paczkowski explained that the goal is to get an

architectural firm with historic property experience to provide a study that address both historic preservation and functionality of the Town Hall.

- **Sidewalk improvements.** The redone stretches of sidewalk on Oxford and Waverly are finished. There was a bit of discussion about the surprise use of permeable Flexi-Pave material at several short stretches of the new sidewalk (as a demonstration at no cost to the town), which had not been specified in the contract and happened without the knowledge of any of the councilmembers. However, councilmember Paczkowski indicted that the particular spots where the material was used were appropriate. That is, its use next to trees helps to get water to the roots. Meanwhile, the town engineer is working on ideas for how to redo the stretch of sidewalk on Waverly from the intersection with Montrose to Penn Place (where the sidewalk is no longer level).

The town manager’s monthly report ended the meeting. All is well for the town financially—revenues and expenditures are within expected levels, except for the continuing puzzle of why there has been a bit of a drop in local income-tax revenues so far this year. Meanwhile, regular town spring work, such as removal and planting of trees on town property, is continuing. 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

2022 Town Election – Thanks to everyone who voted in this year’s Town Election. About 27% of eligible voters cast votes on May 2. Those elected took office on May 9. Congratulations to newly elected Mayor Joanna Welch, Councilmember Gerilee Bennett, and Councilmember Lisa Max.

The 2022 Town Election was the first time we used optical scanner technology to tabulate votes. The scanner was provided by an outside vendor, Electec. Chief Election Judge Louise Stomierowski provided a report on use of the technology at the May 9 Town Council meeting. Overall, we were pleased with the user friendliness of the optical scanner and how quickly election results were available. You can

view Ms. Stomierowski’s full report on the Town’s YouTube channel.

It truly takes a village to put on a municipal election. I would like to express my appreciation to our election judges (Louise Stomierowski and Jenny Krivanek), our poll workers (Cathy Allin, Jean Campbell, and Courtenay Culp), and Town staff member Elizabeth Henley. We were also fortunate to have the services of Electec staff member Matt Conolly. All of these individuals made it possible for us to hold a successful Town Election, and we’re grateful for your contributions.

Important Dates:

- Wednesday, June 8, 2022 – Special Town Council meeting (virtual) – 7:30 pm
- Tuesday, June 14, 2022 – Rescheduled Town Council meeting (virtual) – 7:30 pm
- Saturday, June 25, 2022 – Large item pick up

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](#).

Former Yeandle Property – In 2006, Laetitia Yeandle gifted the property located at 11321 Kenilworth Avenue to the Town of Garrett Park. The conveyance of the property was subject to a life estate reserved to Ms. Yeandle. In conjunction with the execution of the Gift Deed, a Deed of Conservation Easement and a Maintenance Deed were also executed. The Deed of Conservation Easement outlines how the Town can utilize the property; in general, allowable uses include an active or passive park or wildlife habitat. While the Parks & Open Spaces Committee continues its discussions about the property, the Town is undertaking several studies and coordinating with Ms. Yeandle’s designated agent on the home’s eventual demolition.

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

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applications and payment can be completed online at www.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, Interim Town Manager



**9am-9pm
Mon-Sat
9am-7pm
Sunday**

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~ Garrett Park resident ~

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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.

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Garrett Park Pool Opens!

On a clear, sunny Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, the Garrett Park Swimming Pool launched the summer season...but with a surprise: the Grand Opening of the refurbished bathhouse! Sixty or more gathered – the usual hardy kids who always want to be the first in the water, augmented by pool members and townsfolk eager to view the long-anticipated and much-needed bathhouse renovation. They were not disappointed: the new interpretation includes the old favorites of natural light and open air, with new fixtures and added facilities such as a family bathroom. All of this was made possible through several means of funding, including the sale of personally-inscribed bricks, to be installed soon in an entrance patio. Brick donations are ongoing and you don't need to be a pool member to have your brick included, so visit the pool GoFundMe page <https://www.gofundme.com/f/garrett-park-pool/> for more information about how to participate in this community endeavor.



From the Town Archives

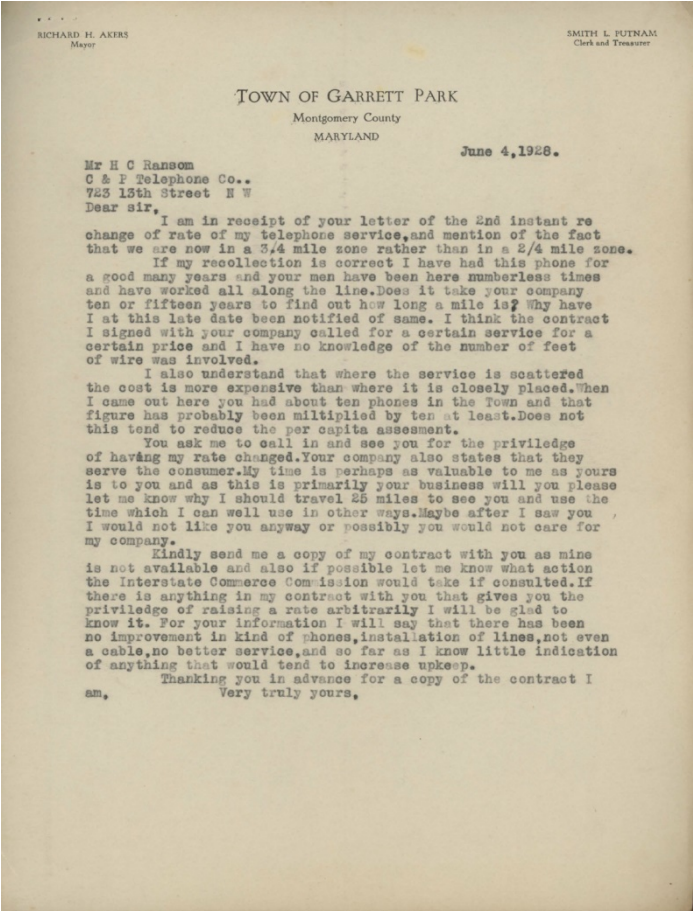
A Lesson on Writing a Complaint Letter

“If my recollection is correct I have had this phone for a good many years and your men have been here numberless times and have worked all along the line. Does it take your company ten or fifteen years to find out how long a mile is? Why have I at this late date been notified of same.”

Pointed lines from a 1928 complaint letter penned (or, more accurately, typed) by long-ago Town Clerk, Smith L. Putnam. I wonder—is this the kind of “good, old-fashioned, sometimes hard-nosed common sense” author Ellen Phillips referred to 70 years later in her book, *Shocked, Appalled, and Dismayed! How to Write Letters of Complaint That Get Results?*

In early June 1928, Garrett Park Town Clerk, Putnam, received a brief letter from Henry C. Ransom of The Chesapeake and Potomac (C&P) Telephone Company of Baltimore City (located in Washington, DC). In the letter, Mr. Ransom notifies Putnam that C&P has been undercharging him for telephone service, based on the number of miles from the closest service office. Ransom requests that Putnam “call in and see the undersigned relative to

this matter so that we may adjust your contract in accordance with the proper rate.”



I can almost picture an irate Putnam sitting down at his typewriter (perhaps the Oliver Model #9 purchased by the Town in 1920) to prepare his acerbic response. Looking for ideas for your next complaint letter or email, check out a copy of Putnam’s (unsigned) letter below, courtesy of the Town Archives.

Artist Exhibition: Robert LeMar



“Crossing the Line”
Artist: Robert LeMar (Montrose Ave.)
Show Dates: June 1, 2022 to June 22, 2022
Opening Reception: June 4, 2022 (11:00a to 3:00 p)
Where: Artists & Makers, 11810 Parklawn Dr Suite 210, Rockville, MD 20852

LeMar’s interest in line has always been prevalent in his work. Three years of portrait sketching on the beaches of Chicago when he was a preteen developed his affinity to line. This was further bolstered by sketching portraits on the boardwalk of Ocean City Maryland in his twenties.

Even though he was later encouraged by his art professors at The Maryland School of Art and Design in Silver Spring to not rely on drawing when painting, he still persisted in drawing on the canvas before applying paint. To this day drawing remains a major element in his painting technique. In his recent abstract work, as he crosses the line between realism and abstraction, he gives line an obviously dominant and defining role.

Letter from the Mayor

In signing a mayoral proclamation recognizing June 3, 2022 as Gun Violence Prevention Day, I added Garrett Park to a long (and growing) list of towns and cities across the country doing the same. The Town Council discussed this proclamation during its May meeting. A couple Councilmembers expressed concern that it would open the door to a string of proclamations on various national issues. One asked me to be mindful that a mayoral proclamation, while at the discretion of the mayor, still gives the impression of reflecting the sense of the town. And a couple urged me to sign it, saying that gun violence touches the people of Garrett Park, even if we never have a mass shooting in Town.

I'm grateful for the feedback from the Town Council and considered it carefully before deciding how to proceed. Ultimately, I decided to sign the proclamation because gun violence has already had an impact on us. For example, in mid-April lifelong Kenilworth Avenue resident Julia Brunetti was barricaded for several hours in her DC high school during an active shooting incident. And just two days after signing the proclamation I received emails from the principals of Garrett Park Elementary and Tilden Middle schools with tips to help my children process the shooting of 19 young children at their own elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

I hope this issue never hits Garrett Park even more directly. And while this proclamation is largely symbolic, it shows that we accept our moral responsibility to demand public, nationwide action to prevent the kinds of shootings that have killed 658 children so far this year (source: GunViolenceArchive.org).

Please join me June 3rd in lighting up the town with orange. Wear an orange shirt that day. Swap the soft white lightbulbs on your front porch for orange. Fly an orange flag. Do whatever you can to show the wider community that Garrett Park supports Gun Violence Prevention.

Joanna Welch, Mayor

Bugle Town Governance Series

This is the seventh 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 the second of 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.

Town Trees and Homeowners

Garrett Park's care for its trees goes all the way back to 1898 when one of the first ordinances passed by the Town (#4) protected the trees along its streets from damage, including not tying "a horse, or horses, or other animal" to any of them!

Today, more modern ordinances exist to protect trees planted in the "right-of-way". (The portion of every property in Garrett Park that borders the street is the right-of-way and is controlled by the Town rather than the individual property owner.) The ordinances ([Sections 715-717 of the Town Code](#)) define what homeowners in town are allowed to do within the right-of-way so the trees can thrive, including:

- No pruning or removal of a tree in the right-of-way without the Town's approval.
- Landscaping may include grass, groundcover, flowers, and shrubs. Trees can only be planted by the Town.
- Driveways and parking pads require a permit from the Town.
- Maintain clear sight lines on corner lots.
- Prevent injury to the trees and help care for them (during construction, for example).

You can see the right-of-way for your property on these survey maps: [Right-of-way Maps](#)

To find more information about a Town tree, look for the round metal tag stamped with the tree's ID number. That number corresponds to a record with information about the tree in a database that powers this map: [Online Map of Town Trees](#).

Our town crew does all the work of planting and watering new trees and keeping an eye on the trees as they work throughout town, but they can't catch everything. If you spot a problem with a tree or have any other concerns or questions, please help out by contacting the town office at (301) 933-7488 or adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov. And be sure to give George and Frank a big thanks when you see them. Garrett Park wouldn't be Garrett Park without its beautiful trees.

[Links in this article (along with other information for homeowners) can be found on the Arboretum Committee's web pages www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/committees/arboretum-committee]