

Volume 69

March 2022

No. 3

Calendar

Sat Mar 5	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Wed Mar 16	Arboretum Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p
Tue Mar 8	Budget Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 8:30p	Sat Mar 19	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Wed Mar 9	GP Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p	Wed Mar 23	Council and Mayor Nominations , Zoom, 8:30p – 9p
Sat Mar 12	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Sat Mar 26	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p

Town Council Meeting Notes

Originally scheduled for Monday, February 14, the February meeting was postponed by one day for some reason, depriving your reporter of the chance to make up an amusing lead-in to this report about meeting on Valentine’s Day (e.g., the town council meeting as love feast?). Oh well. I will have to just get to the facts.

Mayor Kacky was unable to attend, so the meeting was run by councilmember Schulp. He began the meeting with a couple of comments as acting-mayor. The first was to let everyone know that Al Carr (our Maryland State delegate) and Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich are working with Lerner Enterprises, attempting to find a way to restore pedestrian access from the end of Rokeby in Garrett Park Estates to White Flint Plaza, now that the White Flint Mall property is surrounded by a chain-link fence that blocks the path. He also noted that the rebuilding of the changing rooms at the Garrett Park Pool is underway, and should be completed by the time the pool opens on Memorial Day weekend.

Presentations by residents included a question from Ken Schwartz regarding the new task force on devising plans for use of the one million dollars the town is receiving from the federal government under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He asked whether the membership of the committee would be publicly announced and whether the meetings of the task force would be open to the public. The answer, from councilmember Dobosz was that the decision would be up to the members of the task force. There was some discussion of this situation among councilmembers, focused on the desirability of abiding by the spirit of government transparency rules even though the task force is an ad-hoc group not legally required to adhere to these rules. For now,

the issue remains undecided. More on the ARPA committee later in this report.

A second resident’s presentation was by Michael Einhorn, inquiring whether the town could improve the dog park on Cambria Avenue, which is the long-neglected town tennis court. Acting-mayor Schultz suggested that this may be a matter that the brand-new parks and open space committee could take up.

Action items at this meeting consisted of approval of two contracts. The first was a proposed contract with Mercer Group Associates to conduct the search for a new town manager (\$17,000 plus expenses up to \$5,000). The second was a proposed contract with D&F Construction for the sidewalk replacement work on Oxford (between Montrose and Kenilworth), and on Waverly from the triangle to Montrose). At \$146,848, D&F was the lowest bid. Both contracts were approved unanimously.

Moving on to old business, acting-town manager Matthews sought the council’s concurrence with holding an in-person town election this year. Readers may recall that the council had used mail-in voting in 2020 and 2021 (moot in 2021 since there were only as many candidates as openings on the council) handled by an outside contractor. The Town ordinance adopted at that time specified that this could be done only as long at the governor’s declaration of emergency was in effect. The declaration has now been lifted, so the Town must return to in-person voting (with mail-in ballots available to all who need them). Some discussion of issues related to conduct of the election ensued, including a request from acting-mayor Schultz that the firm used in 2020 be used for the counting of ballots, a possibility that acting-town manager Matthews will look into.

A second piece of old business was the announcement of the new members appointed to three of the town committees—Land Use, Parks and

Continued next page

Open Spaces, and Budget. The members of each of these will be posted on the town website.

Now on to updates.

ARPA funds. Councilmember Dobosz announced that the members of the ARPA funds task force have been chosen (but, as noted earlier in this report, their names have not been released publicly). The task force will meet soon, decide the question of openness and figure out how to proceed in its task of compiling a list of projects and amounts of spending to submit to the council through councilmember Dobosz. The town has received half of the money (just over \$500,000) and will receive the rest later this year. The rules for using these funds have been finalized by the state government. Rather than submitting plans for prior approval, municipalities will be permitted to simply submit a report on how the funds were used. The rules are sufficiently simple that the earlier possibility of several towns, including Garrett Park, sharing a consultant to assist in drawing up spending plans might not happen.

Arboretum. Councilmember Bennett reported that educational placards and an invasive vine removal test project are in the works, and that improvements have been made to the tree map software—which you can access on the town website.

Archives. Councilmember Grande announced that the archives budget has been approved and work is proceeding on new displays.

Historic Preservation. Councilmember Paczkowski noted that some structural repairs and new perimeter railings on the front porch are now ready to proceed and the construction work should start late February.

Strathmore Redevelopment at St. Angela Hall. Councilmember Bennett noted that the hearing (at which Garrett Park submitted testimony) has been held. Later this year the county council will receive the hearing examiner’s report and consider the zoning change.

Town Hall. Councilmember Paczkowski said that he is working with acting-town manager Matthews on putting together a request for proposals (RFP) on hiring a firm to provide detailed design options for the building’s renovation.

Acting town-manager Matthews ended the meeting with the monthly town manager’s report; expenditures and revenues are within expected levels. In addition to the written report, she raised two issues that had come up at the January meeting during residents’ presentations. The first was the sledding hill (Argyle Avenue). She has drafted a sledding hill policy and will consult with Liz King, who had raised the issue. The other was Jack Mandel’s inquiry about possible free use of the town hall for town groups such as the men’s book club. In discussion, councilmembers preferred offering such groups the discounted fee (\$35) that is paid by exercise groups that only use the hall for an hour or two. With that issue informally settled, 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*

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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, March 14, 2022 – Virtual Town Council meeting at 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 23 – Virtual Town Election 2022 Candidate Nominations Meeting at 8:30 pm, hosted by the Citizens Association
- Saturday, April 2, 2022 – Large item pickup

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.

Town Elections 2022 – The terms of office for the mayor and two councilmembers are up this year. 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 election will be held on Monday, May 2. Keep an eye on the Town website and Post Office bulletin board for deadlines, dates, and information.

FY 2023 Town budget – The FY 2023 budget process got underway with a Mayor and Council work session on February 23. The budget is tentatively scheduled to be introduced at the March Town Council Meeting and considered for adoption at the April Town Council Meeting.

Snow removal – Hopefully winter weather will soon be behind us, but all of us know how unpredictable Maryland weather can be. 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.

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

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From the Town Archives

In honor of Women’s History Month, plan a visit to the Town Archives to explore our Garrett Park Women’s Club Collection.

Originally known as the Civic Study Club, the Women’s Club was organized on March 11, 1913. In

her reminiscences, Harriett Defandorf, early town resident and club member, recalls the club began with a group of town women who gathered to learn more about suffrage. Jessie Ross Thomson, active in local and state suffrage activities, led the group. Despite this initial focus on suffrage, the Maryland Suffrage News (April 26, 1913) reported that all town women, suffragists and non-suffragists alike, were welcome to join.

Sadly, we do not have records in the Town Archives from the club’s early years, but we do for later ones. We have handwritten meeting minutes from 1926 through February 1952. We also have cookbooks and flyers, programs, and photographs from various events (from about 1948 on).

To learn more about the Women’s Club Collection in the Town Archives, check out the finding aid and explore some of the digitized materials on our website (<https://garrettparkarchives.omeka.net/>) or drop by one Friday afternoon to view the collection.

In closing, here is a fun excerpt from the club’s March 4, 1927 meeting held at the home of Katharine G. Collins. Lillian T. Oyster took the minutes:

“Mrs. Truitt presented for information and discussion by the Club, data pertaining to methods and course for entertaining the children of the Park. After consideration, it was the sense of the meeting that no action be taken until information be obtained as to the possibility of securing thro’ Mr. Broome the moving picture machine belonging to the Montgomery Co. Board of Education. It was suggested that with moving pictures refreshments might be served which the club had furnished.”

Claire McDonald, MLIS
Town Archivist
Garrett Park, MD
Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov
<https://garrettparkarchives.omeka.net/>



9am-9pm
Mon-Sat

9am-7pm
Sunday

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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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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 Lillian Rice Del Priore of Argyle.

Where in Garrett Park do you live? The Sledding Hill (on Argyle)! Smack dab in the middle of it!

How long have you lived here? We moved here in 2005, almost 17 years now. We are the 3rd owners of our 1937 home!

Why did you choose to live in Garrett Park? We were able to join the GP swimming pool when we lived "across the tracks" in Randolph Hills and fell in love with the feel of a small, close town. We also loved that our two boys could walk to school at Holy Cross.

Tell us about how long have you been involved in the GP Women's Club, and what made you first start participating? I had been dipping a toe in Civic events upon moving here. After a short conversation with Geri Fitzgerald, then the GPWC president, I mentioned I would be happy to help. She told me the next meeting was in two days. I couldn't make it, but she would let me know how it went. Oh, she let me know.... I was voted Vice President, without ever attending a meeting! It was a short time before the then president moved out of town, then I slipped right in.

What is your proudest career accomplishment and why? Having the gratitude of women I have helped through labor. There is no better feeling than

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locking eyes with a patient, guiding them through one of the toughest days of their life (happy and unfortunately terribly sad) knowing you have made a difference in their life. I cherish all those miracles and moments. I have kept all of my thank you notes, and hold so many of my patients close at heart.

What do you like most about living in Garrett Park? Walkability! The variety of the homes with the fabulous history behind them: Chevy homes, Richter homes. The GPWC dine arounds are a must! Just adore that fun loving sense of community! And I just LOVE to read the Bugle!

What are your favorite local shops, restaurants or hangouts? Black Market of course! Can you find a better burger anywhere else? Also, it's great to have Mom's Market so close. Tumble Weed and Pink Dot Styles in Kensington both carry local artisan's work, and carry unique gifts.

If you were to suddenly find yourself with a free afternoon on a beautiful day, where would we most likely find you? Billy Goat trail hike, heading to Old Angler's Inn for a post hike bite and refreshment.

What is your current recommendation for streaming? Money Heist on Netflix. We recently finished this series, and can not recommend it any higher.... Bella Ciao!

What else would you like to share about yourself or your family? After losing our sweet dog Teddi last year, we are now on the hunt for a new rescue. We so looking forward to rejoining the dog park!



Bugle Town Governance Series

This is the fifth 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. A reader sent in a question asking about the advantages and disadvantages of being a town, and we asked Carolyn for the answer.

The Town: To Be or Not To Be

The editor of the Bugle asked me to consider the advantages and disadvantages of being a town. I immediately thought about the legal and governmental aspects of being a town. Maryland creates town government as it incorporates towns by granting charters specifying the legal authority and structure of a town's government. The charter grants the Town a degree of self determination. The Town Council can pass ordinances more restrictive than state or federal codes provide. Our 20 mile per hour speed limit is one example. Another is the Town's zoning ordinances that provide for more limitations on lot coverage, which increase openness and more green space.

Our town government is able to speak on our behalf to other levels of government. When Montgomery County authorities were in the process of approving the development of Randolph Hills across the railroad tracks, Garrett Park's mayor, Ed Friedman, had a large impact on the design. Originally a large road was planned for the new development which would have run through Garrett Park and bridge the railroad where the town dog park is now. Mayor Friedman persuaded the County to extend Beach Drive and make a tunnel under the railroad. Currently Councilperson Geri Lee Bennett is working with the County Planning Board on the plan for the development of the Saint Angela Project.

Another advantage of the Town is that the elected officials of the Town are your neighbors and you can bring your concerns to someone you know. One of the great features of Garrett Park is the work of many knowledgeable and talented volunteers. Yes, the County has some volunteers also, but it is more satisfying to volunteer in your own neighborhood, where you see the work you do every day.

One of the advantages of the Town are the town services at hand. I talked with a friend of mine who grew up here and as an adult, and now lives in an unincorporated area of the County. She said she greatly misses Butch, Frank and George of the town public works staff. They plow the streets, tend the town property, and do many other things that make our lives more pleasant. When asked who she would call if there was a problem of county service, she said "I guess I would have to call 240-777-1000." The diversity of architecture and the trees on our arboretum are other advantages of the Town which are missing in the various developments in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Fortunately, I talked with a couple of friends about advantages because I almost left out some of the biggest advantages of the social aspects of living in town. One friend pointed out that she had lived in non-town places, but in town she knew people "who would drop everything and bake a lasagna if I had an emergency and "I would do the same for them." Another friend talked of how living here gives a

sense of identity. She noted that the kids her middle-aged children grew up with in town are still in contact with each other. We not only know the names of our neighbors, we know the names of their cats and dogs. When we talk with each other we say "the Town" all the time.

This same sense of a social unit was very prominent among the residents of the post-World War II Garrett Park. They created the many institutions of Garrett Park we still enjoy. They needed a community center so they got an old barracks from Fort Meade, moved the pieces of it here, and reconstructed it. They created a town phone book so they could call each other to bring hammers to come help. The co-op nursery which they also created is in the building today. They also created the Bugle and the second only community swimming pool in the metro area. Their efforts led to the buying of the Town's two buildings: Penn Place and the Town Hall. The Town fought development of what is now Porcupine Woods. This spirit continued on with the creation of such things as the Film Society and the Gives committee.

When I turned to consideration of disadvantages, I had a hard time thinking of any. The State and County return some of the tax money that helps pay for trash collection and streets, for example. Not get your trash collection, what to do? Call the town office of course. What would you do in other areas of the County. Yes we pay a bit more in taxes, but as the saying goes, "you get what you pay for."

A real estate person once told me that the same house anywhere other than in Garrett Park, would be worth 100,000 less. May be?

We are the Town. We have a history. Who are you going to call?

Carolyn Shawaker

Historic Preservation & Arboretum Committee

Next time you take a walk through town on the streets that dip and curve, and are bordered by towering trees, give a thought to the person behind the historical and horticultural legacy of Garrett Park. And the orange you had for breakfast? The same person brought you that, too.

Meet William Saunders, horticulturist and landscape designer. Saunders was hired to design the layout of the streets and choose the plantings by the Metropolitan Investment and Building Company (MIBC) when they started to develop Garrett Park in 1887. He was the Superintendent of Grounds at the newly created Department of Agriculture.

Inspired by the 19th century Romantic landscape movement and a contemporary of Frederick Law Olmsted, Saunders left an indelible mark on Garrett Park. An 1890s brochure advertised that town lots "front on picturesque winding park roads in the hilly sections, so as to secure all the beauty of these elevated locations . . . While on the village plateau which is but slightly rolling, they are subdivided in

city style, with straight streets, etc. so that all tastes can be suited.”

The avenues, many named after Sir Walter Scott novels, were designed to curve and follow the hilly topography. Small triangular pocket parks were added at several intersections to create visual interest with colorful shrubs and flowering plants. These design principles were similar to those used by Olmsted in his park and street plans. Saunders planted a great variety of trees that would eventually provide green arches above the streets. One of the town’s earliest acts in 1898 was to protect the town’s sylvan setting by officially protecting its trees and shrubs. Saunders careful arrangement and selections laid the groundwork for the town becoming an arboretum in 1977.

A designation that was granted about the same time, in 1975, was Garrett Park’s placement on the National Register of Historic Places. One might expect that it was largely due to the varied architecture of Victorians, Chevy houses. and mid-century modern housing styles. In fact, Saunders

19th century street plan, along with his distinctive landscaping, were just as crucial to snagging the historic designation.

Saunders’ legacy can also be appreciated when you take a walk in the District of Columbia – he helped develop the system of street tree plantings throughout the city. Among the many other achievements that bear his signature design are the National Cemetery in Gettysburg where President Lincoln gave his address and Johns Hopkins’ Clifton Park estate in Baltimore.

Finally, back to the orange . . . with his avid interest in importing exotic plants, Saunders is best known for introducing, in the 1870s, the seedless navel orange to California from Brazil which helped kickstart the citrus industry there.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted’s birth. He designed every kind of landscape, including parks and parkway systems, college campuses, urban and suburban areas, and planned communities. Two of his best-known examples are the U.S. Capitol grounds and New York City’s Central Park. The Library of Congress is hosting *Olmsted’s Conservation Legacy – Exhibit and Panel Discussion*, May 2, 2022. Check out all the events planned throughout the U.S. @ olmsted200.org.

