

Volume 70

April 2023

No. 4

Calendar

Sat Apr 1	Large Item Pick-up	Sat Apr 15	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Sat Apr 1	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Sat Apr 15	GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a
Sat Apr 1	GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a	Wed Apr 19	Aroboretum Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p
Tues Apr 4	Historic Preservation Comm. Meeting, Town Hall, 7p	Sat Apr 22	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Sat Apr 8	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Tues Apr 25	Candidate’s Forum, Town Hall, 8p
Mon Apr 10	GP Town Council Meeting, Town Hall & Virtual, 7:30p	Sat Apr 29	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p

\* No GP JAMS this month

Town Council Meeting Notes

Starting off the March meeting was a presentation by resident Dave Almy, asking the council to consider an art installation related the upcoming 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Garrett Park, based on the importance of the railroad to the town’s founding. He noted that the town is named after the then-CEO of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The space inside the door to the post office is open to ceiling of the next floor, separated by a waist-high wall from the first floor hallway. On the outside of that wall is a ledge. Dave proposed a display on the ledge featuring a model steam engine and passenger cars, against a backdrop of some of his paintings of houses in town. The mayor and council were very interested in the idea and will continue discussions with him about what the exact format will be.

A second residents’ presentation was by Melissa Bronez. Given the frequency of postings on the town listserv concerning dog poop, she asked that the town consider more locations for town-provided supplies of dog-poop bags and trash cans for their disposal. After a bit of discussion, it was agreed that the town staff will research possible locations.

A third residents’ presentation came from Chris Keller. He commentated on a proposed change in town fees (an issue covered later in the meeting). He suggested that while the revisions in general are necessary, some of the proposed fees appeared to be in excessive relative to the costs incurred by the town. He also suggested that the amount of money

for work by a traffic engineering firm (another issue on the agenda) seemed high, and to represent work that, in some cases, the town staff use to do on its own.

Next came the monthly town manager’s report. The most important item was that the town has received three bids in response to its request for proposals (RFP) for Town Hall renovation designs. They are now being reviewed, and Town manager Matthews hopes to have a recommendation to the council on the bids at the April meeting. In addition, a company has been hired to revise the town website. And the work on the retaining wall at the Garrett Park Pool will wait until September so as to not interfere with the swimming season.

The big items for the evening were three action items.

**Landlord-tenant rules.** The first was the proposal to opt-in to the part the County Code covering landlord-tenant relations of rental units, an issue that had been discussed at two previous council meetings. Despite earlier council consideration, this proposed ordinance produced considerable discussion. Councilmember Dobosz, for example, felt that change in the current situation (no regulation by either the county or the town government) was unnecessary. In the end, the vote was 4-1 in favor of opting into county supervision (Chapter 29 of the County Code).

**Organic waste recycling.** A second action item was to authorize the pilot program for organic composting, run by a private composting firm. After

Continued next page

some discussion, the council approved the program with a 50-percent subsidy for those who choose to sign up for the service.

**Budget introduction.** The really big item for the night was introduction of the town budget for fiscal year 2024 (July 2023-June 2024). The budget process had begun with a council work session on February 27, at which, town manager Matthews made a PowerPoint presentation outlining developments in town revenue and the range of spending projects. The discussion at that meeting led to about a dozen specific instructions to the town manager to consider in developing the budget. The minutes of that meeting (available on the town website) contain both the mayor’s slides and the instructions to her from the mayor and council. On the basis of that meeting, the town manager prepared a draft budget for introduction at the March meeting. Some discussion took place about specific items in the budget, after which the council voted unanimously to introduce the budget (with the vote for adoption to take place at the April meeting).

As an aside, the February 27 council work session also included approval of the personnel manual that had been discussed but not voted on at the earlier regular February council meeting, as well as approval of a contract for the annual audit of the town financial records.

With the budget introduced, the meeting moved on to unfinished business items, of which there were three.

Grotto. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was a town spring with a small park and pavilion building nearby, commonly called the Grotto. Robert Pratt and his family want to donate to the town the land at 4703 Argyle, where the spring was located. No vote occurred, but the council expressed agreement in principle to accept the entire piece of property (rather than just a portion of it), subject to a boundary survey and clarification of the family’s wishes on usage. This issue will be on the April council meeting agenda.

Security cameras. Further discussion about installation of security cameras at Penn Place took place. At earlier meetings there was some movement toward expanding the project to include coverage of the train station, which turned out to be impractical (since CSX will not allow others to attach cameras to its building). Therefore, the consensus was to return to the original plan for four cameras on the outside Penn Place, and two inside.

Traffic engineering. The town has a bid from a traffic engineering firm to evaluate four issues in town (speed bumps, lines of sight at intersections, etc.). At the February meeting there had been suggestions for expanding the list of items, but at the March meeting the council agreed to stick to the original four.

Finally, the meeting moved on to New Business. There was only one item: revision of permit fees. The town manager Matthews noted that some fees charged by the town for services (building permits, variance requests, etc.) are much lower than in nearby towns, and well below the cost of providing them. The town manager recommended, therefore,

April 2023

that several of the fees be increased. No vote took place on this proposal; the purpose was to introduce the issue along with provision of a comparison of these fees across nearby municipalities.

On monthly updates there was little of note except that the Archives Committee continues to work on plans for events and displays related to the town’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And so, 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

- Saturday, April 1, 2023 – Large item pickup
- Monday, April 10, 2023 – Town Council Meeting – 7:30 pm
- Monday, May 1, 2023 – Town Election – Polls open 7:00 am to 7:30 pm
- Monday, May 1, 2023 – 7:30 pm deadline for absentee ballot submission

### Town Election

This year’s Town election will be held on Monday, May 1, 2023. Voters will select candidates for three seats on the Town Council (the seats currently held by Dona Dobosz, Stephen Paczkowski, and Phil Schulp).

The candidates shall be considered elected as of May 1, 2023 and shall take office at the next Town Council meeting (Monday, May 8) after being sworn in by Mayor Welch.

### Qualifications of Voters

Every person who (1) legally **resides within** the corporate limits of the Town on the day he or she registers to vote and continuously thereafter until casting his or her vote in any Garrett Park election (2) is at least **eighteen years of age**, and (3) is **registered either in the County or in the Town** is a qualified voter of the Town. Every qualified voter of the Town is entitled to vote in all Town elections, whether or not they are a citizen of the United States.

It is the policy of the Town that all eligible voters shall be provided with an opportunity to vote. Qualified persons may register by universal registration with **either Montgomery County or the Town**, or may register only with the Town (including residents who are not citizens of the United States), **up to and including election day**. Voters may register at any time that the Town office or the polls are open as well as at other times or places that the election judges

may designate. If a person registers with Montgomery County, that registration must be for a Garrett Park address in order to vote in Town elections. If a registration occurs with the County less than 30 days before the Town election, the information may not reach the Town by election day. In that case, the voter may register again with the Town in order to vote.

If you would like to register with the Town, please scan or photograph any document that verifies your street address (your driver's license, a utility bill, or other official document) and email that information to the Town Manager at [barbara.matthews@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:barbara.matthews@garrettparkmd.gov). You may also mail the document to the Garrett Park Town Office, PO Box 84, Garrett Park, MD 20896-0084.

**Key Election Process Dates**

- Candidate Financial Disclosure Submission Deadline – 4:00 pm on Monday, April 10, 2023
- Election Day – Monday, May 1, 2023 – Polls open 7:00 am to 7:30 pm
- Absentee Ballot Submission Deadline – 7:30 pm on Monday, May 1, 2023

**Income Tax Return Reminder (MD Form 502) –**

Haven't filed your taxes yet? Did you know that income tax receipts are one of the Town's most significant revenue sources? By State law, municipalities in Maryland receive a portion of the income tax levied by Montgomery County. But the State of Maryland needs to know to return this revenue to the Town.

What can you do to ensure that the Town receives its fair share? 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." The political subdivision code for the Town is 1604.

**REQUIRED:** Maryland Physical address of taxing area as of December 31, 2021 or last day of the taxable year for fiscal year taxpayers. See Instruction 6. Part-year residents see Instruction 26.

1604	Town of Garrett Park
<small>4 Digit Political Subdivision Code (See Instruction 6)</small>	<small>Maryland Political Subdivision (See Instruction 6)</small>
<small>Maryland Physical Address Line 1 (Street No. and Street Name) (No PO Box)</small>	
<small>Maryland Physical Address Line 2 (Apt No., Suite No., Floor No.) (No PO Box)</small>	
<small>City</small>	<small>MD State ZIP Code + 4 Maryland County</small>

**Household Organic Waste (Compost) Contract Awarded**

On March 13, 2023, the Town Council authorized execution of a contract with Compost Crew for household organic waste collection and disposal. The Town Council included funding in the FY 2023 budget for a one-year pilot program to assess community interest in a partially subsidized program to assist residents with turning their household organic waste into compost.

There are two cost components for the pilot program. The first is a one-time charge for purchasing a compost bin from Compost Crew. Residents are responsible for the cost of purchasing a compost bin, which comes in two sizes. The resident cost is \$20 for a 7-gallon container and \$35 for a 12-gallon container.

The second program cost is the recurring monthly service cost paid to Compost Crew. Under the pilot program, the monthly Compost Crew service cost will be partially subsidized by the Town.

- The Town will provide a 50% subsidy towards the monthly service cost for the 7-gallon container (for a maximum of 113 households based on available funding). Residents will pay \$11 per month for the 7-gallon container option.
- If a resident wishes to use a larger 12-gallon container, the resident will pay the monthly service cost upcharge between the two bin options. Residents will pay \$15 per month for the 12-gallon container option.

Assistant Town Manager Kayla Buker is currently working out logistical details with Compost Crew. Keep an eye out for an announcement via GPML and the Town Forum regarding the sign-up period. Residents will enroll through Compost Crew, not the Town Office.

If you have questions in the interim, please contact Kayla at [Kayla.Buker@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:Kayla.Buker@garrettparkmd.gov) or by calling (301) 933 – 7488.

**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](http://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. 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: [www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits](http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits).

**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](#).

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

Barb Matthews, Town Manager



## Save the Date!

### Progressive Dinner 2023!

Saturday, May 20th

Dust off your cookbook, break out the Hoover,  
be on the ready for the SOS call....  
we need YOU!

\*\*\*\*\*

Lillian Del Priore • 240-994-3631



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**INTEGRITY, HONESTY, TENACITY—RESULTS!!**

## 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 in mind, let us know! This month’s feature is on Todd Harris.



**Where in Garrett Park do you live?** I live in a purple castle on Kenilworth Ave with the loud Vizsla barking....Sorry.....

**How long have you lived here?** 18 Years.

**Why did you choose to live in Garrett Park?** I wanted a place like Bethesda 40+ years ago, where I grew up. Before moving to Bethesda, my family lived on Flanders Ave in Garrett Park Estates. I actually attended the Garrett Park Nursery school and that’s where my mother Tance taught for 30 years.

**Tell us about the GP Listserv...Why did you decide to start it, and is it hard to manage?** The

Listerv ;) wow. I was part of a listserv in Silver Spring and found it very useful. So, when we moved to Garrett Park and realized what great resources we had in the local neighborhoods for Garrett Park, Kensington, and White Flint, I formed the group. It's sometimes hard to moderate/run, but it's gotten easier with time. I still get the occasional spam emails I have to filter through and the occasional neighbor that I have to call and say do you really want me to post that to 700 of your closest friends!!!

**What is your proudest career accomplishment and why?** In the middle of covid being asked by a neighbor if I could help out one of his friends in Bethesda who was having a hard time selling their house and fired their agent. The house in Bethesda was owned by a disabled veteran who lost both of his legs in Afghanistan. The young family here wanted to move to Florida to be closer to extended family. He just wanted somebody he could trust and tell him what needed to be done to get his house sold and he put his trust in me. I got it sold over list price in 10 days.

**What do you like most about living in Garrett Park?** I like the fact that everybody knows everybody, it’s close knit and I like the age range and that there are a good variety of ages of residents.

**What are your favorite local shops, restaurants or hangouts?** You can find me and my family at Blacks, Quicys, and Rio Grande.

**If you were to suddenly find yourself with a free afternoon on a beautiful day, where could we most likely find you?** You would find me playing pickleball at Penn Place with a bunch of other neighbors.

**What else would you like to share about yourself or your family?** I’m blessed to be able to raise my family with my lovely wife Dawn who has been instrumental in helping me run my business and keeping my social calendar in order. We love that we have raised 4 girls with my parents living 5 doors down from me. Not too many people I know in the Montgomery County area can say that. I do know there are some long-term Garrett Park/Kensington families and I think that speaks to quality of life living here. I also feel really lucky to be able to sell homes and live in this beautiful neighborhood.

Call Todd today, your local neighborhood realtor!



**TODD HARRIS**  
**HOMES**

cell: 301-455-5440  
office: 240-497-1700  
ToddHarrisHomes.com

~ Garrett Park resident ~





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

301-493-6217  
www.grosvenormarket.com



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County Library. Driving time is 5-10 minutes. While the restaurant has room for inside dining, it currently only accepts take-out orders. (Ignore its website which indicates it has dine-in service.)

As you can guess from the name of the restaurant, biryanis are its signature dish. Biryani is an aromatic dish made with steamed rice and herbs. Biryani City has 7 biryanis available: vegetable, egg, paneer (similar to cottage cheese), chicken, fish, shrimp and goat. They are very good, and the prices are modest – from \$12 (vegetable) to \$17 (goat). Recently I ordered the chicken biryani. They asked about my preferred spice level. The spice levels are graded in six categories: from Indian spicy to American mild, with the middle two categories being Indian medium and American medium. I ordered my biryani “Indian mild.” Yet, I would categorize the preparation as being relatively spicy. For me, it had the right amount of heat. I caution against selecting the spiciest categories.

Biryani City has 16 vegetarian entrees, so it is a good place to go for non-meat eaters. One of my favorite Indian dishes on its menu is masala dosa, a thin rice-and-lentil pancake wrapped around a potato preparation with a side order of sambar curry. I have never had a bad masala dosa. In terms of appetizers, gobi (cauliflower) is a good bet.

Is Biryani City one of the premier Indian restaurants in the DC area? Probably not, yet it is a very good option for a nearby take-out meal.

In Garrett Park, everyone is entitled to my opinion!

Gary Gourmond

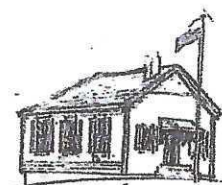
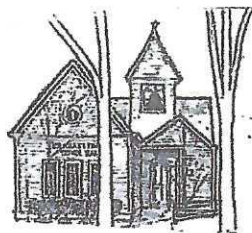
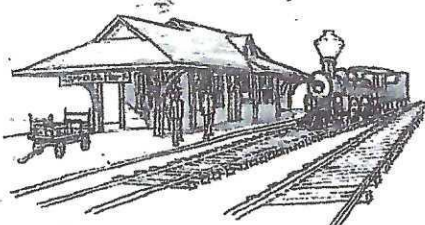
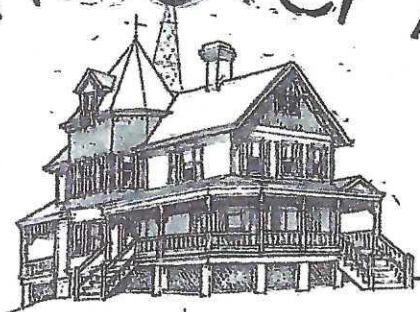
Restaurant Review

Biryani City  
4630 Boiling Brook Parkway, MD. 301-744-9444

There is not a restaurant much closer to Garrett Park than Biryani City. It is in the same shopping center as Goodwill and Friends of the Montgomery



# Garrett Park Over The Decades



## Quasquicentennial Celebration 1898 - 2023 - 125<sup>th</sup>

**SAVE THE DATE--AND CELEBRATE!**

**125th TOWN ANNIVERSARY  
GARRETT PARK THROUGH THE DECADES  
An Exhibit of Objects, Documents, and Publications  
Presented by the Garrett Park Archives Committee**

**12-4 PM, MAY 21, 2023  
TOWN HALL**

**More Details to Follow!**

# COUNTY-WIDE CELEBRATION

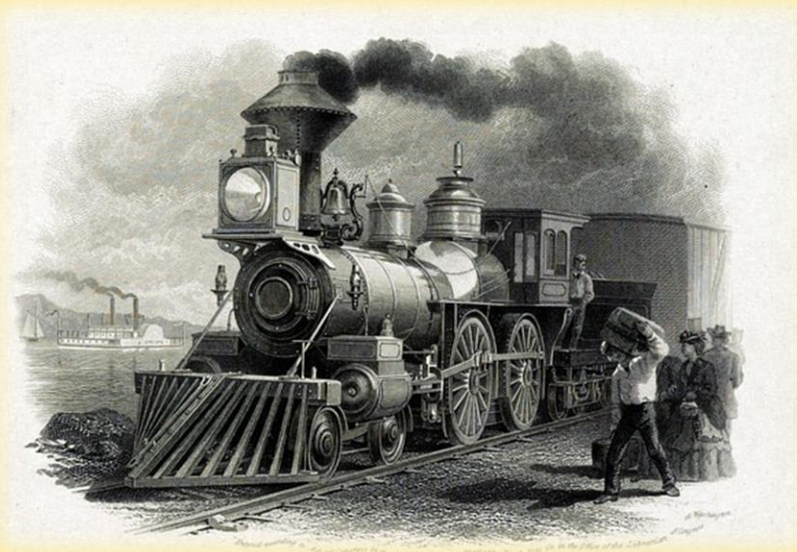
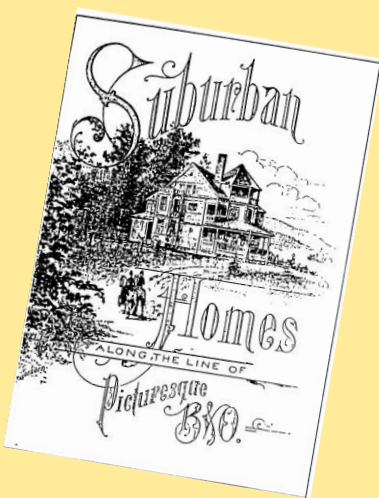
OF THE

## 150th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Branch of B & O Railroad

Tours, exhibits, performances, lectures at various sites  
throughout Montgomery County throughout spring & summer

**2023**

Excursion Train on Memorial Day, May 29



Now the MARC Brunswick Line, the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad, after the first train made its way from Washington D.C. to Point of Rocks on May 25, 1873, changed the face of Montgomery County -- bringing it into the industrial age with steam powered mills and factories located next to the tracks -- transforming agriculture from marketing wheat and corn to producing perishables such as milk, peaches and apples. Railroad suburbs started sprouting upwards from the District line. Villages next to the tracks turned into cities, and sleepy country towns turned into summer resorts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EXCURSION TRAIN TICKETS  
AND A CALENDAR OF EVENTS GO TO:  
<https://montgomerypreservation.org>



Montgomery Preservation, Inc

