



Garrett
Park,
Maryland

Volume 70

December 2023

No. 10

Calendar

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| Sat Dec 2 | Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p | Fri Dec 15 | Sing-along Christmas Carols, Town Hall, 7p – 10p |
| Sat Dec 2 | Visit from Santa, Town Hall, 2p – 4p | Sat Dec 16 | Christmas Day; Town Office Closed |
| Tues Dec 5 | Arboretum Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p | Sat Dec 16 | Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p |
| Sat Dec 9 | Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p | Fri Dec 22 | GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a |
| Mon Dec 11 | GP Town Council Meeting, 7:30p, Hybrid | Sat Dec 23 | Town Office Closed |
| | | Mon Dec 25 | TBD: Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p |

Town Council Meeting Notes

I confess! On October 31, the Town Council had a retreat scheduled to last a full day at the County’s Glenview Mansion facility in Rockville. The meeting was open to Garrett Park residents. I did not attend this meeting. My excuse? This meeting was for Council Members, the Mayor, and the Town Managers to sort out the appropriate roles for the Mayor and Council Members, developing a long-term vision for the Town, and prioritizing issues for the Council to focus on in the next couple of years. At least, that is what the agenda for the meeting indicated. I figure that the results of the retreat discussion will become evident over coming months as the Council works through its priorities, so there was no harm done by skipping this meeting. Or maybe if my salary were doubled. . . Wait, $2 \times 0 = 0$. Oh well.

So, onto the November regular Town Council meeting. Minutes of the September meeting were adopted without change, and the agenda adopted with one small change (dropping discussion of Kenilworth/Oxford intersection safety issues in “new business” postponed to a future meeting). During residents’ presentations, Tony Altar suggested that an inexpensive yield sign at the Kenilworth/Argle intersection would be helpful and added that he supports the Council’s efforts on the Town Hall renovation.

The Town Manager’s monthly report covered a number of topics, of which three struck your reporter as worth including here.

Higher interest rates have resulted in larger-than-initially-expected Town revenues on its investment account by about \$11,000. Yay!

Assistant Town Manager Kayla Buker attended the annual Maryland Local Government Insurance Trust meeting. At that meeting, towns were urged to review and revise as necessary their employee policies related to marijuana now that recreational use has been legalized in Maryland. Who knew such a day would come?

The Mayor and Town Manager have been meeting with state officials about potential state funding for the Town Hall renovation. There are possibilities, but state officials will need to see renovation plans that are a bit further along.

On action items, there were two.

Penn Place. The Town received two bids for the renovation of the Town Office and two other offices on the third floor of Penn Place. After a bit of discussion, the Council voted unanimously to award the contract to Turn Key Properties, which was the lower-priced bid.

ARPA fund reallocation. Back in October, the Council asked the Town Manager to devise a reallocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds away from the Town Hall to other projects, and the existing Town-funded financing of these other projects shifted to the Town Hall. ARPA-funded projects must be “obligated” (a technical term meaning that contracts must be signed) by December 31, 2024. The proposed ordinance moves some ARPA funding to projects that are further along in planning than the Town Hall renovation, thus helping to guarantee that we will not lose any ARPA funds when we reach that 2024 deadline. The proposed budget revision moves \$243,146 of ARPA funds away from the Town Hall to other projects, such as the Penn Place renovation for which the Council has now approved the contract, and moves an equal

Continued next page

amount of town money from those projects to the Town Hall.

At this point in the discussion of using ARPA funds, Council Member Eisenstadt noted that several Town residents have expressed concern to him about whether the Town could or would successfully reallocate ARPA funds so that they would be fully used by the time of the deadline. This produced some discussion among Councilmembers, the Mayor, and the Town Manager, the result of which was unanimous confidence that there is no doubt that the funds can, and will, be shifted so that no ARPA funds are lost. Councilmember Eisenstadt then wondered what the Council could do to ensure that the word gets out to potentially worried residents. At this moment, your *Bugle* reporter noticed that the Mayor, Council Members, and Town Manager were all looking directly at him. “Moi?” OK, let me repeat: Town officials are fully confident that ARPA money can and will be reallocated so that we do not lose any of the funds at the end of 2024. Your Town officials are on top of the issue.

Old business consisted of two issues, each of which generated considerable discussion.

Waverly sidewalk. Replacing the stretch of sidewalk on Waverly from Montrose to Penn Place has been under consideration for several years, and the Town has detailed plans from Clark Azar and Associates, Inc. Discussion revolved around lighting (with low lampposts rather than the high lights around the rest of the town), sidewalk elevation (should it be raised to the level of the top of the curb), and if elevated, could the stairway down to the tennis court be tied-in to the sidewalk without replacing the entire stairs. A committee of the Mayor, Town Manager, and Councilmember Schulp were delegated to make a choice on lighting.

Town Hall renovation. Based on the discussions of the previous month, Councilmember Paczkowski has produced a conceptual design incorporating what the Council wanted. Discussion proceeded on the basis of that design, with a variety of opinions expressed and questions asked. The Mayor and Councilmember Paczkowski will tweak his conceptual design on the basis of the discussion and forward it to Wiedemann Architects and discuss it with them, which will result in a more definitive set of architectural drawings.

New business included only one item: **changes to the Kenilworth/Argyle intersection to improve safety.** The Town has received a detailed drawing for changes to the intersection from the engineering firm Gorove Slade. The changes will improve the sight lines for cars proceeding up Argyle and those proceeding south on Kenilworth (i.e., toward Strathmore) by relocating a portion of the curb, installing a new yellow centerline on Argyle, and installing a new stop sign on the extended curb. The cost estimate is \$20,000. The Council voted unanimously to proceed with the work.

Updates mentioned that the fall tree walk with Town Arborist Phil Normandy brought out about 55 people for the walk. Arborist Normandy, by the way, explained carefully during the walk why removal of three trees closest to Penn Place will be necessary as
December 2023

part of the Waverly sidewalk project, with, of course, new trees to be planted in their place. And, there was a reminder of the Chevy House tour next April.

The meeting ended with a short comment about an issue that was not on the agenda. Councilmember Eisenstadt noted that the Town Charter seemed rather out of date and in need of revision. He volunteered to work on this issue. Your reporter recalls that the last time the Council carried out a major revision was 1997, and included such changes as making the language gender neutral, and giving non-U.S. citizens the right to vote in Town elections.

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, December 11, 2023 – Town Council meeting at 7:30 pm
- Friday, December 22, 2023 – Town Office closed for Christmas Eve holiday
- Monday, December 25, 2023 – Town Office closed for Christmas holiday

Fall Leaf Collection

Leaf collection by Bethke Landscaping will end on December 15. Leaves should be placed in rows alongside the street side of the curb so that they are accessible for pickup by truck. Please be mindful of the placement of the leaves to avoid blocking storm drains or impeding traffic flow.

Any sticks, rocks, trash, and other debris should be removed from the leave piles as they can damage machinery and will not be collected by Bethke.

Shredded leaves and grass clippings should be bagged and put out for the regular yard waste collection on Mondays.

Holiday Gifts

If you would like to contribute a holiday gift to the Key Sanitation crew members who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, please mail your check to the Town of Garrett Park, PO Box 84. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Garrett Park with “Holiday Fund” written as the memo. The Town Office will collect contributions through mid-January.

Snow Removal and Sidewalk Clearing

With the official start of the winter season only a few weeks away, just a few reminders about actions you can take to help the Town and community members navigate inclement weather.

Please park off the streets when snow is expected so that the Town maintenance staff can clear curb to

curb where possible. This will allow for more space to park after the streets are plowed.

Please be a good neighbor and clear the sidewalk in front of your home of ice and snow for safe pedestrian use. If clearing is not practicable, then residents should spread sand on the ice and snow. In accordance with the Town Code, sidewalk clearing should take place within 24 hours of a snowfall or freeze.

Town Permits

Just a reminder that 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 any required Montgomery County permit.

To avoid any delay in the process, complete your Garrett Park permit application and submit it 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 designated historic district, please keep in mind that some projects may require a County Historic Area Work Permit. For more information, you can reach out to the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee or the Town Office.

New Town Residents

Are you new to Garrett Park? If so, welcome to our community! Take a break from unpacking boxes and contact the Town Office at (301) 933-7488. We'd love to get you up to speed with what you need to know about living in Garrett Park.

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

Barb Matthews, Town Manager



9am-9pm Mon-Sat
9am-7pm Sunday
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From the Archives



The holiday season is here, which usually means a flurry of activity and shopping trips to find those perfect gifts. This year, why not give the gift of history. Let the Town Archives inspire you to preserve and share your family's history.

A curated selection of family photographs is a great place to start. Sort through your photographs and pull out the best ones to share with your children and grandchildren. No need to pass along the blurry ones, ones where everyone has their eyes closed, or duplicates.

The best gift of all? Well-labeled photographs with names, dates, locations, and events. Ideally, you should label your photos by placing them in archival sleeves and adding slips of acid free paper with identifying information. If you must write on a photograph, use a soft graphite pencil to label the *back* (along the edge). Most importantly, learn from my family's bad habits, as illustrated above, and never write on the front of photographs.

Got more time? A digital album of scanned photographs is always a welcome gift. If you have a scanner, use a higher quality than you would for a document. A general rule is to scan photos at a *minimum* of 300 dpi and go higher (600 dpi or more) for smaller photos or slides. No scanner? No problem. Use your smart phone camera alone or with a photo scanning app to create digital copies to share with others. Be sure to label your digital copies as you would your physical photographs. Photo apps like Apple or Google Photos allow you to add titles, captions, keywords, locations, and more. They even let you create slide shows. Want more ideas for preserving your family history? Check out this short article from the Smithsonian (<https://siarchives.si.edu/blog/six-tips-preserving-family-archives>) or stop by and chat with the Town Archivist most Friday afternoons (except for 12/15) or by appointment.

Photo credit: Helen and Ann Sullivan (Claire McDonald's great aunt and grandmother), circa 1918, New York, NY.

Call Todd today, your local neighborhood realtor!



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Obituary

Donald Charles Franz, former long time resident of Garrett Park died October 21, 2023, four and a half years after a debilitating stroke. This left him unable to enjoy the outdoor activities he loved.

Don moved with his parents Jacob and Ruth Franz and younger sister Terry from DC to 10700 Keswick Street around 1950 when he was 2 or 3 years old. Ruth died in 1955 and Jay married Juliana Day in 1963.

Don grew up at the dead end street when there was no Shelley Court and no apartments. There were woods where all the neighborhood kids had a marvellous time building forts, hide and seek, running free. From a young age he was an avid birder, fisherman, hiker and took over the Christmas tree business on the family farm in Frederick County after Jay died.

Don was devoted to his family and friends and will be missed.



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work with my neighbors**

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