



### Calendar

Sat Feb 4	Chicano Sol Farm Stand Returns! Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Weds Feb 15	Aroboretum Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p
Sat Feb 4	Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6p	Sat Feb 18	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Tues Feb 7	Garrett Park JAMS, Town Hall, 7p	Mon Feb 20	Presidents’ Day; Town Office Closed
Tues Feb 7	Historic Preservation Comm. Meeting, 7:30p, Virtual	Mon Feb 20	Trash and Yard Waste Pickup as Usual
Sat Feb 11	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Weds Feb 22	Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting, Town Hall & Virtual, 7:30p
Mon Feb 13	GP Town Council Meeting, Town Hall & Virtual, 7:30p	Sat Feb 25	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p

### Town Council Meeting Notes

Your reporter begins this month with an apology. In the December report I wrote that during the residents’ presentations portion of the meeting, George Payne, Jr. spoke about the Strathmore development at St. Angela’s Hall. What I meant to write was George Martin, Jr. For those of you who have not lived here for several decades, George Payne was mayor of Garrett Park in the early 1970s and served a remarkable 27 years on the Town Council. My apologies to George Martin, Jr.

After approval of the agenda and the December 2022 Meeting minutes, the meeting got underway with another resident’s presentation, by Ken Schwartz. He had spoken in December about several suggested tweaks in the mid-year budget adjustment. This time he spoke about the Town Hall renovation. Mr. Schwartz suggested that the Mayor and Council establish a timeline for moving the project forward so that the Town can meet the requirement in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to have funds obligated by December 31, 2024. He also suggested that the Council seek additional funding sources for the project. His concern was that without a timeline, progress on the project will slip behind to the point where ARPA funds cannot be used.

The next agenda item was Town Manager Barbara Matthews’ monthly report, which began with comments on the Town Hall project. She noted that the wording for the Request for Proposals (RFP) is finalized and is undergoing final legal review by the Town Attorney before going out. The RFP is the first

step in the project—asking architectural/design firms to bid on the request to come up with several alternative approaches to the renovation.

Town Manager Matthews also covered several other issues in her report, including renovation of the Town Office (design firm is working on plans), former Yeandle house removal (the draft RFP is being reviewed by the Town Engineer), Town street light repair and expansion (Town Staff working with Pepco regarding replacement of the non-functioning light on Rokeby). All of these are covered in more detail in her written report, which is available on the Town website.

Next was a big action item: final approval of the mid-year budget amendment, which had been introduced at the December meeting. The Council made one change to the draft, increasing expected income tax revenue in line with the suggestion put forth by resident Ken Schwartz at the December meeting. And that extra anticipated revenue will be allocated to the Town Hall renovation in the capital budget. With that one change, the budget amendment was passed unanimously.

On new business, there were two items. First, the Mayor proposed, and the Council approved, the re-appointment of Karen Thiel to the Archives Committee. Second, the Mayor initiated a lengthy discussion of rules on long-term rentals of accessory dwelling units. Montgomery County has (in Chapter 29 of the County Code) rules, regulations, and inspections pertaining to these rentals covering landlord responsibilities, fire alarms, etc. However, Garrett Park has opted out of the County rules. Some

residents (myself included) assumed this opt-out was the one made about three years ago, opting out of county rules regarding short-term rentals of the Airbnb variety. But this is incorrect. According to Mayor Welch, the town opted out of county rules on long-term rentals way back in 1984. However, the Town never drew up its own set of rules, regulations, and inspections to replace the County rules. This means that, since 1984, home owners in Garrett Park have been renting out accessory apartments in a completely unregulated environment. As put by the mayor, the town faces three options:

- Opt back into County Code Chapter 29, letting the County do the regulating and inspection in Garrett Park.
- Establish a Town set of rules, regulations, and inspections in lieu of the County rules.
- Do nothing and let the current unregulated situation remain.

The Mayor was not pressing for action at the January meeting, but wanted to raise the issue, with a goal of making a decision on which of these alternatives to pursue in a couple of months. The Mayor urged residents who have rental units on their property to express their thoughts on this matter.

During the discussion the following issues cropped up pertaining to problems with the third “do nothing” option. Anyone constructing a new accessory dwelling runs into a catch-22 with the County because issuance of a building permit is dependent on proof of compliance with either county or town regulations, neither of which town residents can get at the present time. Second, there is a possible liability issue for the town. Should there be some major catastrophe (e.g., a house fire), would the town government be liable for a failure to regulate rentals? The Council plans to seek advice from the Town Attorney on this issue. Stay tuned as the Council continues to explore its options over the next couple of months.

After the preliminary discussion of rental issues, the meeting moved on to monthly updates, of which there were three.

**RFP for Organic Waste Collection.** As councilmember Bennett explained, the Town has \$15,000 allocated in the budget for a pilot project for a contractor to pick up organic waste—with residents free to opt-in or not to this service (i.e., it would not automatically apply to all residents like trash and paper/glass/metal recycling). The initial pilot project would be for one year and would provide a chance to find out how much demand there is for such a service in town. An RFP to provide this service is ready to be sent out.

**Strathmore Redevelopment at St. Angela Hall.** Councilmember Bennett noted that the Mayor had testified at the County Hearing in December. Her testimony and other documents related to this development are available on the Town website, under Government/Intergovernmental Communication. At the meeting, the County Planning Board approved the preliminary plans for the development, but there will be further opportunities to press for changes.

**Archives.** Councilmember Max announced that Malcolm Russell-Einhorn is now the Chair of the Committee. And there is an exhibit at the Post Office put together by Town Archivist Claire McDonald about the history of the Town Hall.

That brings us to the conclusion of the meeting. Your reporter guarantees that, this time, all names are correct.

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:

- Monday, February 13, 2023 – Town Council Meeting – 7:30 pm
- Monday, February 20, 2023 – Town Office closed for Presidents’ Day holiday

**Income Tax Return Reminder (MD Form 502)** – 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  
 4 Digit Political Subdivision Code (See Instruction 6) Maryland Political Subdivision (See Instruction 6)

Maryland Physical Address Line 1 (Street No. and Street Name) (No PO Box)

Maryland Physical Address Line 2 (Apt No., Suite No., Floor No.) (No PO Box)

City State ZIP Code + 4 Maryland County

### Snow Removal and Sidewalk Clearing

Thankfully it has been a mild winter so far, but there is still a chance of snow and ice in the coming weeks. 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.

### At Large Animals

Several residents contacted the Town Office recently to share their concerns about unleashed dogs in the community. The unleashed dogs have charged towards residents and/or their pets. Town staff has also encountered unleashed dogs dashing into the roadway, putting them at risk of being struck by a vehicle.

Under County law, a dog is considered at large if it is outside the owner’s premises and not leashed, unless it is in a designated exercise area. Any other animal (including a cat) is at large if it is outside the owner’s premises and is not leashed or immediately responsive to verbal or non- verbal direction.

Montgomery County Animal Control assesses a fine of \$100 for a first offense and a \$500 fine for each subsequent violation.

If you encounter an unleashed dog or other animal-related matter and wish to report it, please contact Montgomery County Animal Control at 301-279-8000, Option 2.

### Birthday Pencils

Is your child celebrating a birthday? Garrett Park youths are invited to stop by the Town Office to get a celebratory birthday pencil, engraved with the Town of Garrett Park.

The birthday pencil distribution is an initiative of Mayor Joanna Welch to connect the younger members of the community with their Town government. So please bring your child by the Town Office to get their gift, meet the Town staff, and learn a little bit about Town operations.

**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](#).

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

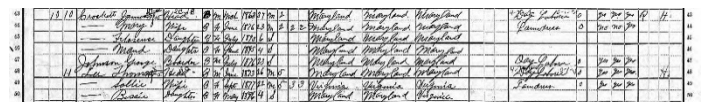
As always, please reach out to the Town Office with any questions or concerns. You can reach me at (301) 933-7488 or at [managerbarb@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:managerbarb@garrettparkmd.gov).

Barb Matthews, Town Manager

## From the Town Archives

In observation of Black History Month, I want to share some little-known history of Garrett Park. The 1900 Federal Census for “Garrett Park Town” tells an interesting story of the fledgling town. Emmett Dove, a farmer from Rockville, collected the town’s census on June 1, 1900. Dove enumerated 175 people in 35 households. Of the 175 residents, he identified 38 (or 22 percent) as Black.

### Excerpt from the 1900 Census



Many of these early Black residents lived and worked in White households. For example, 19-year-old Dinah Parker and 11-year-old Hattie Hawkins worked as servants in the Vivian Brent household. Young Sarah Davis was a servant in the home of Jason Defendorf, and Elbert Wallace was a coachman for Herman Hollerith.

Several Black families were listed as separate households. The Crockett and Lee families comprised a double household. James Crockett and Thomas Lee were day laborers, and Mary Crockett and Sallie Lee were laundresses. In addition, based on dates of birth and birth locations, it is likely that some of these town residents were born into slavery. For example, John Walker, who worked as a day laborer, was born in 1848 in Virginia. Mary Branch, shown as a servant in the home of Mayor Eugene Brady, was born in 1855 in Virginia.

Unfortunately, our collections in the Town Archives do not include materials on any of these individuals and families, so all I know—so far—comes from the census record. In keeping with the Archives’ mission to collect and share the history of Garrett Park and its residents, I think it is important to include these previously unrecognized residents in our collections. If you agree and enjoy research, I welcome your assistance in learning and telling their stories. Please email me at [Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov](mailto:Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov).

Claire McDonald, MLIS  
Town Archivist  
Garrett Park, MD

<https://garrettparkarchives.omeka.net/>



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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](mailto: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.

Call Todd today, your local neighborhood realtor!



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HOMES

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office: 240-497-1700  
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~ Garrett Park resident ~

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## Letter to the Editor

### Congratulations and Concerns Regarding Town Governance

I have monitored activities of the Town Council for the past three years, and I would like to share my observations regarding the Council's work. I honor the Council and Mayor for their commitment to the Town. It's not an easy task, and they commit themselves to many hours of voluntary work.

The Overall Budget. I have had concerns for several years regarding the Town's erroneous budget estimates. For the past 3 years combined, the Town's estimates have been too pessimistic by well over \$1 million. But the Town is now getting a better handle on its budget. For FY2023, I believe that the estimates will be closer to reality than in any of the past five years. While additional improvement is necessary, Mayor Welch and Town Manager Matthew, as well as the Council, are to be applauded for the progress.

Town Hall. On the other hand, I have been concerned about the slow progress of plans to renovate Town Hall, a project that should be the Town's top current priority. If I were to use a single word to describe the process to date, it would be "leisurely." Most folks suggest that the cost of Town Hall renovation is likely to be \$2.0 million or more. The Council has set aside \$1.3 million for the renovation. Of the \$1.3 million, \$0.8 million is derived from funds provided through the federal American Rescue Plan, but those funds expire if not contractually committed by December 2024. In short, the Town has less than 2 years to complete work leading to contract award. That seems like a long time. But is it? On January 19 the Town finally issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to analyze up to three options for renovating Town Hall. But the RFP fails to specify a deadline for submission of the report to the Town, an unusual omission. Finally, more broadly, the Town has failed to develop a timeline describing the tasks that need to be performed between now and the 2024 construction contract award deadline. For example, it is unclear how the Town will finance the project if the cost significantly exceeds the \$1.3 million currently in hand. I have raised these concerns with the Council, but with little success. Perhaps the Council will move more quickly in the future. Or perhaps not. Time will tell. I will hope for the best.

Ken Schwartz

## Obituaries

**Thomas Moore Rodes** ("Tom"), devoted father and husband, died in Ellsworth, Maine on the 5th of January 2023. A resident of Parker Ridge Retirement Community, Blue Hill, he was 87. He died peacefully, surrounded by his children.

The youngest child of Boyle and Harriet Rodes, Tom was predeceased by his wife, Barbara, brother Boyle and sister Harriet. He is survived by his sister, Margaret Rodes White of Sperryville, VA.

Born in St Louis, MO, Tom attended high school at John Burroughs School and Phillips Andover Academy. Summer canoeing trips at Camp Keewaydin Temagami in Ontario Canada, sparked an abiding love of the outdoors and geography. Tom also had a passion for music of most styles, including bagpipes, steel pan, and close harmony, but most especially St. Louis jazz.

Tom graduated from Brown University in 1958 with a degree in American Studies. Over his four years, he earned a varsity letter in soccer, and helped found the Brown University Rowing Team. Tom served in the US Army as part of the Special

Intelligence Unit, West Germany, from 1960 to 1962. Tom's winter alpine adventures over these two years inspired him to later become a member of the Elk Mountain Ski Patrol in the Pocono Mountains.

Following his return to the Northeastern part of United States, Tom performed various roles in the energy industry in Buffalo New York and Pennsylvania (Bradford and Waverly).

In 1975, he settled his family in Garrett Park, MD where he lived for 35 years. He took up an advisory role at the financial services firm A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. in Alexandria, VA where he worked for over 20 years.

During his time in Garrett Park with wife Barbara, he raised a family and contributed to the local community. Before the "Soccer Mom" was invented, Tom was a model "Soccer Dad," and he hardly missed a child's match. He was a member, then Chair, of the Town's Arboretum Committee and led 'The Fall Walk' to advise the Town on trees and perennial plantings. As an empty nester, he enjoyed spending weekends in the Shenandoah countryside close to his sister.

In 2011, Tom moved to Cambridge MA where he lived for ten years. During this time, he provided devoted and tireless support to his wife as she battled Alzheimer's disease. He enjoyed living next to the Charles River and celebrated The Head of the Charles each year by gathering friends and family to enjoy his self-prepared country ham.

In 2021, Tom moved to Parker Ridge Retirement Community in Blue Hill Maine. He had been coming to the Blue Hill Peninsula as part of the family's summer vacations for over 20 years. He particularly enjoyed making friends within the Parker Ridge community after Covid's enforced isolation. Tom focused on nurturing relationships with his extended family and cataloged more than 23,000 analog images and organized the family genealogy records, making the material available for future generations. He was passionate about financial planning and helped grandchildren establish retirement accounts, a testament to his long-range planning.

In addition to his sister Margy, he is survived by son Peter and daughter in law, Alison of Wilmette, IL; son Thomas, "Toby," and daughter-in-law Sachiko of Cambridge, MA; and daughter Lindsay and son-in-law Christopher Marks of London, England; and six grandchildren, Maxwell and Graham Moore Rodes, Marshall and Emi Rodes, and Philippa and Charles Thomas "Chatto" Rodes Marks.

He will be interred in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati later this Spring.

### **Ida Mae Dumais Sullivan**

August 13, 1938 - October 19, 2022

Longtime Garrett Park resident Ida Sullivan passed away October 19, 2022.

Ida Sullivan was raised in Madawaska Maine. Her studies in nursing led her to Washington DC where she was selected to present an orchid to Queen Elizabeth II in 1957. Just as notable, Ida also was introduced to a classmate's brother, and she and Paul Sullivan were married in 1960. Ida worked as a

Registered Nurse at several area hospitals and then as a hospital administrator. She was a talented artist, whose commissioned oil paintings are found in homes and establishments around the Washington DC area. In retirement, Ida volunteered in her community, and welcomed her children's spouses and 14 grandchildren.

Ida and her husband Paul moved into their home on Clermont Avenue in 1963 where they raised four children (Lorraine, Marie, Patrick and Joseph). For close to 60 years, Ida was an active member of the Garrett Park neighborhood.

One of her first projects in town in the late 1960s was advocating to have sidewalks installed, to make the town safer for children and all walkers. The sidewalk on Clermont Ave is a lasting testament to her persistence.

With four young children, and with her natural creative and artistic talent, Ida was an enthusiastic participant in town traditions such as the Fourth of July parade - designing and coordinating elaborate floats and costumes.

In the 1970s, "Mrs. Sullivan" was the consummate swim-team mom, who cheered on the Ladybugs, hosted poster-making (and donut!) parties, volunteered as a Stroke and Turn judge, and orchestrated the purchase of the first swim-team canopy. An enthusiastic swimmer herself, Ida also was a behind-the-scenes supporter of the pool staff, providing everything from first-aid advice to hot casseroles and desserts for the guards.

In later years, Ida volunteered in town government, serving on the Parks and Open Spaces committee (eventually serving as the chair). Notable work included the original Cambria Courts Rehabilitation Project. Ida was a supporter of providing space for neighborhood teens to skateboard and hang out together.

Many town residents for decades benefited from one of Ida's side gigs as a Notary. Ida was available to neighbors when they needed help with important documents, serving as a confidential witness and supporter of life's milestones.

Ida also was an active member of Holy Cross Catholic Church. Ida volunteered her time and artistic talent to the parish, serving on committees that helped with renovation of the church and with documenting the history of the parish. Most recently, Ida had donated an antique baby carriage that was used to help collect donations for babies and mothers in need.

Garrett Park enjoys a reputation as an eclectic and special neighborhood. Ida Sullivan embodied the best of that Garrett Park independence. She was a transplant to the DC area who adopted her new hometown with loyalty and pride. She used her creative talents to advocate for change and to benefit others. As her family, we hope you will remember her when you stroll a tree-lined sidewalk, cheer on a young swimmer, or volunteer for a cause that matters to you.