# CARRETT EN BUGLE Garrett Park, Maryland Vox Clamantis in Deserto

**July 2023** 

Calendar			
Sat July 1	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Mon July 10	GP Town Council Meeting, 7:30p, in-person and virtual
Mon July 3	Regular trash/yard pick-up		
Tue July 4	Independence Day; Town Office Closed	Sat July 15	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Tue July 4	GP Independence Day Celebrations	Sat July 22	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Sat July 8	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Sat July 22	GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a
Sat July 8	GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a	Sat July 29	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
	* No GP JAMS this month * No committee meetings this month		

### **Town Council Meeting Notes**

Volume 70

The June meeting of the Town Council got off to a speedy start-one small change to the agenda, no changes to the draft minutes of the previous meeting, and no presentations by residents. Town Manager Barbara Matthews then made her monthly report, covering a variety of developments. See her report on the town website for most of the details. I will just pull out one significant item from her report here. She announced that the final federal legislation dealing with the government debt ceiling will not affect the town's one million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that the town has not yet spent. Some uncommitted ARPA funds were "clawed back" in the legislation, but not money that has already been transferred to states and municipalities. Whew. There is, of courses still a deadline looming-the Town must have contracts signed for whatever projects we choose to fund with the Town's ARPA funds (such as renovation of the Town Hall) by December 31, 2024.

Moving on to action items, there was only one approval of a contract for demolition of the house on the former Yeandle property that is now owned by the Town. The Town had received six bids that varied unusually widely in price (between \$35,222 and \$86,300). But all six bids conformed to the requirements of the request for proposals (RFP). Therefore, Town Manager Matthews recommended that the lowest bidder (RemacUSA) be selected. After a brief discussion, the Council voted unanimously to accept that bid.

Next on the agenda was unfinished business, of which there were two items: determination of a summer hiatus for the Town Council, and changes to permit fees.

<u>Summer hiatus</u>. Your reporter apologizes for getting this wrong last month. The May meeting had focused on whether there was a time in August when the council could meet to hear the report about the options for the Town Hall renovation. Your reporter interpreted that to mean that the hiatus would be the July meeting. Wrong. The issue was simply undecided. At the June meeting, it turned out that finding a suitable time in August did not work out. Therefore, the report by Wiedemann Architects concerning the Town Hall will be presented to the council in September. Therefore, the Council WILL meet in July, and take its hiatus in August.

<u>Permit fees</u>. Updating the fees charged by the town for various permits (e.g., building permits) had been discussed at the March and May Council meetings. With additional information provided by Assistant Town Manager Buker on costs involved (time spent by the Town lawyer and/or town arborist) and options (e.g. how much 50 percent or 100 percent coverage of those costs would be), the Council went through each of a number of different permits. Discussion of each permit was extensive, with careful consideration of what neighboring towns charge, what the town currently charges, what would represent a reasonable increase from the current level,

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how much of actual costs incurred should be covered, etc. There is not enough space in this brief report to go through the discussion of each of the permits, so I will just say that the discussion was careful, thoughtful, and not rushed. As a result, this discussion went on for a long time, but ended with a set of new fee levels that the Council adopted unanimously. The new fees will be posted on the town website.

Moving on to new business, there were also two items on the agenda: parking on Keswick near the pool, and rethinking town properties on Cambria.

<u>Keswick parking</u>. Councilmember Schulp requested that the town provide signage indicating that one side of the short stretch of Keswick from Strathmore to Cambria be made a no-parking fire lane. At swimming pool events, there has been an issue with cars parking on both sides, which is a hazard for large emergency vehicles. Town Manager Matthews will consult with the town lawyer about what is involved in establishing a no-parking fire lane, and meanwhile will have the curb painted yellow.

Assessment of town-owned spaces on Cambria. Mayor Welch introduced this new topic, noting that the need to replace the cracked spiral slide at the Cambria Park playground, raises the possibility of engaging in a comprehensive reassessment of all the public spaces the town has (other than the swimming pool). These consist of Cambria Park, the athletic field, the dog park (former Town tennis court), and a small strip of land next to the dog park called Manny's Woods. The Mayor's suggestion was that the town hire a consultant to provide ideas and options for possible reconfiguration of all these spaces, followed by discussion with town residents. This proposal generated some pushback from Councilmembers. Some wondered why a new comprehensive review was necessary, or wondered why a consultant should be paid for ideas prior to discussion among interested town residents. And there was concern about this new process delaying the repair of the slide at the playground. After some discussion, the Mayor acknowledged the tepid response, but still wanted to float the idea for longterm consideration.

Ending the evening were a couple of updates. There was praise for the event at the Town Hall for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the town. Further exhibits at the post office are the works. And, Councilmember Schulp presented slides showing options for lighting along the planned rebuilding of the sidewalk on Waverly between the intersection with Montrose and Penn Place. With that, 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 <u>garrettbugle@gmail.com</u>\*

#### **Citizens Association Officers**

Steve Welker President ~ Thomas DiChiara, Vice-President ~ Rory Smith, Treasurer ~ Betty Fout, Secretary Editor: Steve Welker and Aaron Brand (<u>garrettbugle@gmail.com</u>) Audience Engagement Editor: Meghan Wendt Reporter: Ed Lincoln (Box 348) Advertising: Margaret Goldsborough (<u>gandgantiques@aol.com</u>) Calendar: Rachel Faulkner

\*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, July 3, 2023 Regular trash/yard waste collection
- Tuesday, July 4, 2023 Town Office closed for Independence Day holiday
- Monday, July 12, 2023 Town Council meeting at 7:30 pm

August Town Council Meeting. There will be no August Town Council meeting this year. The Town Charter allows the Town Council to omit one meeting per calendar year at its discretion.

**Permits.** Planning a summer construction project? Please keep in mind 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 the 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 <u>before</u> requesting a County permit. Permit applications and payment can be completed online at <u>www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/per</u> <u>mits</u>.

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.

**Upcoming Work at Penn Place.** On June 14, the County Historic Preservation Commission approved two Historic Area Work Permit Applications for Penn Place (4600 Waverly Avenue).

In the coming months, we will be installing four exterior cameras and two interior cameras at Penn Place. The camera installation was prompted, in part, by acts of vandalism that occurred in the past year at the MARC Station.

The County's approval of the other application will allow the Town to replace the current wooden entry doors to the Post Office with metal doors fitted with automatic door openers for ADA access. The new metal doors will be visually identical to the existing wood doors.

Thanks to the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee, which submitted letters of support for both Historic Area Work Permit applications. Attention All Garrett Park Landlords and Tenants. On March 13, 2023, the Town Council adopted Ordinance No. 2023-1, which allows the application of County Code Chapter 29 (Landlord-Tenant Relations) in the Town of Garrett Park. The effective date of Ordinance No. 2023-1 is July 1, 2023. Information on the rental licensing and registration process can be found at <u>Licensing and Registration</u> | <u>DHCA (montgomerycountymd.gov)</u>.

A useful source of information is the County's Landlord-Tenant Handbook, which addresses the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants under County Code Chapter 29. All landlords and tenants in Garrett Park are encouraged to review the Handbook, which can be accessed at the following link: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhca-landlordtenant

**Interested in Going Greener?** On May 1, the Town launched a one-year pilot program to assess community interest in a municipally supported household organic waste composting program. There is available funding for 113 households to participate in the pilot program.

You can sign up for the pilot program at <u>www.Compostcrew.com</u>. Detailed information on the pilot program is available on the Town website at the following link:

#### <u>Compost Pilot Program Launched | Community</u> <u>Notices & News | Garrett Park, MD</u> (garrettparkmd.gov)

**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 <u>Barbara.Matthews@garrettparkmd.gov</u>.

### Barb Matthews, Town Manager



#### 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@gmeil.com 202.641.7380). She will be

(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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### **Arboretum Committee**

Did you know that Dr. Seuss' children's story *The Lorax* was likely inspired by a real tree? A Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) in La Jolla, California that bore a striking resemblance to a Truffula tree. It had a good run, living 80-100 years before finally falling in 2019. My wife likes to joke that the Arboretum Committee is sort of like the Lorax who said, "I speak for the trees for the trees have no tongues."

In every edition of the Bugle, the town manager includes a reminder about the permitting process for things like building new structures and paving driveways/parking pads. As an important part of that process, the town arborist Phil Normandy will recommend tree protection measures for nearby town trees. These measures are, among other things, to prevent soil compaction by heavy equipment, damage due to excavation and storage of heavy materials like gravel on a tree's root system. Construction damage can take several years to be evident, and affected trees often don't recover. For privately-owned trees this makes it difficult to hold careless contractors responsible.

Failure to protect town trees during construction risks irreparably damaging the tree which is a violation of Section 716 of the town code. The loss of a tree means loss of habitat for animals, less shade in the summer and a considerable financial burden which may be borne by the homeowner. An example of best practices for tree protection can be found in the Comprehensive Arboretum Plan (Part 1, pg 108), available on the town website. Please follow town permitting requirements when you are starting home improvement projects and, if you ever have questions about the impact of construction on trees, we are here to help.

### Sean Conlan (Chair, Arboretum Committee). From the Town Archives

I recently read an article about "Gratitude in the Archives." It shared the idea that archives are not just about preserving documents and photographs-they are about honoring and preserving stories of people and their lived experiences. On May 21, the Town Archives got to share some of our stories with all who came out for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. During the event, members of the Archives Committee and I frequently overheard people say how nice it is to live in a town that honors its history. We enjoyed seeing so many families at the event and hope that it encouraged children and adults of all ages to learn more about Garrett Park and its residents. We even had a special visit from Congressman Jamie Raskin, who took great interest in the exhibits and graciously visited with town residents.

I wish to recognize the people who made this event so special and successful:

- The amazing barbershop quartet, Irrational Exuberance, featuring the talented Jay Reiss, Douglas Mader of Garrett Park, Barry Davis, and Dave Ruppert.
- Scot Shuck, Garrett Park resident and owner of the Grosvenor Market, who generously provided a beautiful fruit tray and tempting desserts at a discount.
- Mayor Joanna Welch and Councilmember Lisa Max who are not only terrific supporters of the Town Archives but also helped coordinate the snacks (and post-snacking cleanup). Joanna's popcorn maker was a hit!
- The Archives Committee members who participated in planning, shopping, and preparing and cleaning up Town Hall for the event— Malcolm Russell-Einhorn (Chair), David Almy, Lillian del Priore, Joe May, Brian Mizoguchi, Charlie Snyder, and Karen Thiel.
- Town Office staff Barb Matthews, Kayla Buker, and Elizabeth Henley who offered behind the scenes support and made sure the bills got paid!

I hope the event piqued your interest in the history of Garrett Park. Remember that the Town Archives is open most Friday afternoons and by appointment.

> Claire McDonald Town Archivist

### **Garrett Park Community Fund**

The Betsy White Fund, administered by the Garrett Park Community Fund, was established in 1969 by the Garrett Park Women's Club to provide **emergency funds** to residents and employees of Garrett Park. For more information about the Fund please see the Town website at <u>https://www.garrettparkmd.gov/organizations/thebetsy-white-fund[EL1]</u>

While previously the Fund was limited to Garrett Park Town residents and Town employees, we are pleased to announce that this Emergency Fund will now expand its applicant eligibility to include other employees within the town as listed below, effective October 25, 2022. Eligible applicants now include: Town residents

- · Town employees
- · Employees of Garrett Park Nursery School
- · Employees of Black Market
- · Employees of Town residents

To meet eligibility requirements, employees listed above must have worked regularly for at least one year for the respective employer, and must still be currently employed by that employer. The Trustees of the Fund will, on a case-by-case basis, determine eligibility based on both the employee's work record and the employer's temporary personal emergency situation at the time of application.

The Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship Fund is also a part of the Garrett Park Community Fund.

### **Restaurant Review by Gary Gourmand**

#### El Patio

5240 Randolph Rd. 301-231-9225

I was unaware of El Patio until I read last month's Bugle, which included biographical information regarding our mayor, Joanna Welch. In that article, Joanna mentioned that one of her favorite restaurants in the area was El Patio. While I have lived in Garrett Park for quite a few years, I was unaware of El Patio. So I decided to try it.

El Patio characterizes itself as an Argentinian restaurant. Self-admittedly, I am not very familiar with Argentinian cuisine. El Patio is located in Loehmann's Plaza, about 10 minutes away from Garrett Park. I and a dining companion went there for lunch.

First, I noticed how very reasonable El Patio's menu offerings are. For example, a grilled steak sandwich is \$9.25. Most other dishes are also modestly priced. We tried the following: 3 empanadas (spinach, "sweet" beef, and "salty" beef) at \$2.40 each; a mixed salad (\$6.50); and sauteed beef with onions served on mashed potatoes, termed carne salteada (\$13.15). My favorites were the beef empanadas. They were surprisingly different from one another. For example, unless I am mistaken, the "salty" beef empanada had olive and egg bits mixed in. The salad was standard. I enjoyed the carne salteada – it had a lot of flavor -- but I did find it a bit over-salted (and I do like salt!). Overall, both I and my dining companion were quite satisfied with the lunch. We would join the mayor in recommending it for Garrett Parkers.

Is El Patio fine dining? No. However, it is quite satisfying for a quick dinner, especially for families with a variety of tastes.

In Garrett Park, everyone is entitled to my opinion!

### **Obituary**

Kathryn Lynn Mitchell b. April 12, 1952; d. May 20, 2023



Kathryn Lynn Mitchell, 71 years old, passed away on May 20, 2023, in her beloved home in Garrett Park, Maryland, surrounded by family and friends. Kathryn was born in Stockton, California on April 12, 1952, to Hilda C. Mitchell and the late Ralph Mitchell, Jr.

Kathryn graduated high school in Louisville, Kentucky and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Auburn University. She worked as a paralegal in Mobile, Alabama, and Nashville, Tennessee before moving to Washington D.C. eventually settling in Garrett Park, Maryland.

She worked for Reese Communications Companies before leaving the for-profit world to devote herself to fundraising for nonprofit organizations, including Friends of the Earth, Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, and the Audubon Naturalist Society (currently Nature Forward). She retired in 2012.

For more than two decades Kathryn defied all odds in battling myelodysplastic syndrome. She was a determined advocate for her own health care and was known as the "Miracle Girl" to the staff at Georgetown University Hospital, and friends and family. Kathryn was a real fighter and never let her condition steal from her the simple pleasures and joys of living each day as a gift.

Nature was her spiritual center; she was a lover of all things wild and free. An avid birder and wildflower connoisseur, her favorite places included the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains and her back porch in Garrett Park. She was never known to pass up a good dirt road to explore or an abandoned house in pursuit of some hidden treasure. She had a passion for antiques, folk art, old movies, Mayan culture, and history. Kathryn would spend hours in pure delight researching questions about anything historic, reveling in all the minute details of her discoveries. She also wouldn't miss an opportunity to brag about her "genius" ranking on The New York Times Spelling Bee. Kathyrn loved German Shepherds and over the years, adopted three from the Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue organization - Lindsay, Sadie, and Sammie.

Kathryn is survived by her mother, Hilda C. Mitchell, her brother Kurt Mitchell, sister-in-law Linda Mitchell, niece Kaarin Mitchell, nephew Nate Christian, and three cousins. A Celebration of Life will be held on July 11, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at the Historic Garrett Park Town Hall, 10814 Kenilworth Avenue, Garrett Park, Maryland.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the <u>Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue</u> and/or the <u>Leukemia and Lymphoma Society</u>.

### Our Graduates

We are pleased to recognize this year's crop of graduates. Best wishes to all of you! If we missed someone, please let us know before the publication deadline for the next issue of the Bugle, and we will be sure to include them.

### **Highschool**

**Mina Bennett** (right), daughter of Arthur and Gerilee Bennett of Keswick Street, graduated from Walter Johnson High School. She will attend the University of Amsterdam in the Fall to study Communication Science.



Julia Vazquez-Brunetti graduated from Edmund Burke School. Laura and Jim Brunetti are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, Julia Vazquez-Brunetti, from the Edmund Burke School in Washington, DC. Julia achieved academic distinctions in English and World Languages. While at Burke, Julia was a leader and member of several affinity groups and clubs. She was also active in the drama department, performing in Burke's fall plays and spring musicals. Her favorite role was Schwartzy in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Julia intends to major in media studies at Scripps College in Claremont, CA, after taking a gap year to pursue her interests in the arts and activism.





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**Jason Conlan** graduated from Walter Johnson High School. Jason excelled at WJ with a particular interest in social studies and history. He loved school spirit competitions and was a member of many clubs. He was goaltender for the WJ Ice Cats, and backstopped the team all the way to the 2023 State Championships where they won for this first time since the year he was born. As a senior, he was selected for county All-Team, state Second Team, and the Washington Post Honorable Mention All-Team. Jason's strong friendships with kids in Garrett Park will truly be lifelong connections. Jason is looking forward to a gap year playing hockey for the Boston Jr. Bruins. In 2024 he'll be attending the University of Minnesota in the Carlson School of Business. We are so proud of the young man he has become and look forward to seeing him grow and thrive in the future. Lori & Sean Conlan.

**Jacob Doria-Rose** graduated from Walter Johnson High School. He Will start at Ohio State in the fall.





**Kyran Heijkoop** (right) graduated from Wheaton High School, where he completed the Engineering Magnet Program. He was a National Merit Scholar and was on the varsity wrestling team and a member of the SAT club.

**Kendall Harris** (left) graduated from Walter Johnson High School. She was a Member of National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society, Certificate of Meritorious Service award for 260+ student service learning hours, Field Hockey JV & V teams. Kendall will attend the University of South Carolina in the fall as a Capstone Scholar.



Ella Murray (below) graduated from Walter Johnson High School and is going to UMD to major in sciences.



**Sam Silverman** of Rokeby Ave. graduated from Walter Johnson HS and will attend Ithaca college in Ithaca, NY next year.

**Irene Tarpy** (below) graduated from Walter Johnson High School. Irene was awarded " Celine Silver Memorial Award- for excellence in Science, Arts and Athletics". She will continue her studied in the fall at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for Computer Science.

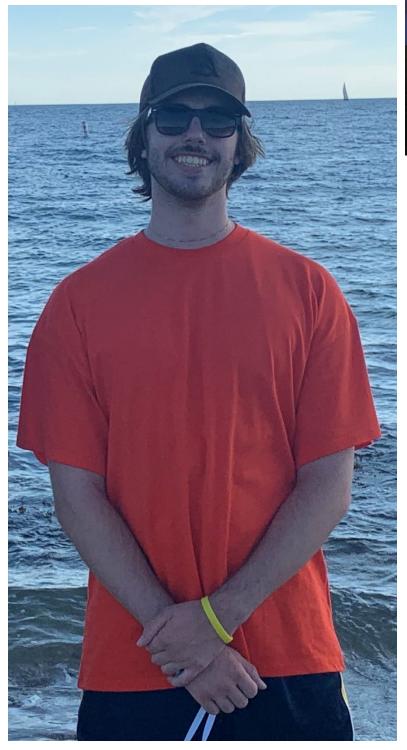
**Carson Pearce** of Clermont Ave. graduated from Walter Johnson High School and will be attending Wesleyan University in Connecticut in the fall.

**Julia Puglisi** (below) graduated from Walter Johnson High School. She was active in the Arts Honor Society and a Yearbook staff member. She will attend Florida State University in the fall.





Jack Wisotzkey, graduated from Walter Johnson in June. Jack was a member of the Walter Johnson swim team all four years of high school; he also played in the orchestra and sang in the chorus at WJ. He was the treasurer of the Kids Are Scientists Too club that brought fun, hands-on science experiments to local elementary schools to get them excited about science. He is a member of the National Honor Society and achieved National Merit status. Jack is also the recipient of the Project Management Institute's Montgomery County Chapter scholarship to a graduating high school senior. Jack will be attending the University of Maryland, College Park, this fall, studying kinesiology. - Marty Brown and Laura Wisotzkey





### **<u>College/Post-Graduate</u>**

**Darby Harris** (right) graduated from University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice. She was President, House Manager and Panhellenic Representative for Kappa Delta sorority Member of Order of Omega. Darby will attend the George Washington University in the fall to pursue a Master of Science in the Field of Crime Scene Investigation.

**Jonah Jassie** (below) graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a dual degree in history and political science (BA). He plans to go to law school, but this year he is grateful to have the opportunity to travel and work in Europe. – Michelle Feige





Kayla Eliana Twedt (lower left and right) graduated from Towson University with a BA Psychology, cum laude. Kayla started her higher ed journey at Tulane University. She transferred to Towson after two years for a degree curriculum that better fit her desire to work with people directly and children in particular. At Towson, Kayla worked diligently and consistently, attending each summer session, to stay on her four-year graduation track. She prevailed, graduating on time and with honors. Kayla has a oneyear commitment with a family to care for two children, one with special circumstances. She plans to take this year to learn and assess her next steps, which likely will include furthering her education.





