

Volume 70

June 2023

No. 6

Calendar			
Sat Jun 3	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Sat Jun 17	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Sat Jun 3	GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a	Sat Jun 17	GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a
Sat Jun 10	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Mon Jun 19	Juneteenth; Town Office Closed
Sun Jun 11	Garrett Park Musicale, Town Hall, 4p	Wed Jun 21	Arboretum Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30p
Mon Jun 12	GP Town Council Meeting, Town Hall & Virtual, 7:30p	Sat Jun 24	Large Item Pick-up
* No GP JAMS this month		Sat Jun 24	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p

### Town Council Meeting Notes

The May meeting of the Town Council is always a special one. Why? Because it begins with an important ceremony—the swearing in of the new (or renewed) Town Council Members. This year, there were three seats up for election and the election was uncontested. According to Chief Election Judge Jenny Krivanek, there were 181 ballots cast (just under 22 percent of eligible voters, not bad for an uncontested election). The fact that the election was uncontested does not diminish the importance of this key element of our democratic system—the regular, peaceful, transfer or renewal of power. And, to help emphasize the solemnity of the occasion, our state senator (Jeff Waldstreicher) and our three state delegates (Jared Solomon, Emily Shetty, and Aaron Kaufman) attended this portion of the meeting and made brief remarks. Welcome back to Phil Schulp and Stephen Paczkowski, and welcome on board to Todd Eisenstadt.

Once the ceremony was over, the meeting moved to the other business of the evening. Two quick items on the agenda were the reading of a Mayoral Proclamation declaring Friday, June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Garrett Park, and unanimous approval of a resolution thanking Councilmember Dona Dobosz for her service on the Council from 2021-2023. The Town Manager’s monthly report covered a number of issues (see the report on the Garrett Park Website for details). Of them, I will mention two. First, the spiral slide in the playground at Cambria Park has separated from the frame. It will be replaced. The other major topic was the status of the Town Hall renovation and the use of the federal

funds the Town has received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Wiedemann Architects LLS is now underway with assessing the building condition, developing alternative plans, and providing cost estimates of various renovation items. They will have a finished report by mid-August.

The Town Manager also responded to concerns regarding the possibility that negotiations on increasing the Federal Government’s debt ceiling might include a pullback of unspent ARPA funds. Town Manager Matthews reached out to our U.S. Senators and House Representative, as has the Mayor. She heard that if there is a pull-back it would only apply to ARPA funds still in the hands of the Federal Government, not to funds in the hands of state and local governments.

The report also addressed the possibility of the Town Hall project missing the ARPA deadline of December 2024, by which time projects must have signed contracts. She noted that the Town can shift ARPA funds to pay for other projects that are closer to being ready for contracting, or even for the Town payroll. Then the money in the regular budget could be shifted to the Town Hall project. Therefore, she said, there is no danger of having to give money back to the Federal Government.

Next, the meeting turned to unfinished business: permit fees, wall repair at the pool, and a commemorative train display at Penn Place.

**Permit Fees.** At the March meeting, Assistant Town manager Buker had brought up the question of the fees the town levies for various permits (e.g. building permits). In response to that discussion, she presented new information on the costs incurred by the Town in handling various permit requests. In some cases, the processing cost to the Town is far

above current fees. This issue generated considerable discussion. For example, should the estimate of costs incurred by the Town Government exclude staff time (since they are on salary)? Assistant Manager Buker will present a revised memo with alternative fee choices on which the Council can vote.

**Repair of the retaining wall at Garrett Park Pool.** The wall in question is part of the foundation of a water tank that had been used by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the days of steam engines. Discussion centered on whether the remaining foundation is of sufficient historical value to be preserved. Most (but not all) Council Members informally agreed that the wall is of historical value, and also agreed that the Town should get input from an architect who is knowledgeable of the kind of restoration work involved.

**Train display at Penn Place.** Originally brought up at the March meeting by Town resident Dave Almy, considerable further discussion took place about his proposal to install a steam train display against a background of some of his paintings of houses in Town. This would be mounted on the ledge outside the waist-high wall on the main floor of Penn Place. The result was informal agreement to move forward, but with some sort of additional barrier (probably plexiglass) to eliminate the safety concern about people reaching over the wall to touch the train.

On to new business.

**Summer Hiatus.** The Town Council regularly takes off a month in the summer. Because the Council is eager to receive the report on Town Hall renovation when it is available in August, the hiatus will be in July. However, the date of the August meeting was not settled.

**Procurement Policy.** Town manager Matthews explained that, while the Town does have a set of procurement policies, it does not have a codified policy which would include items not in the Town’s policies (such as emergency procurement or change orders). Therefore, she suggested, it is time to develop a new, more comprehensive policy that could be codified. Her desire at this meeting was simply to introduce the topic to the Council. Discussion focused mostly on threshold levels when various procedures kick in (e.g., at what price level must the town do a request for proposals (RFP)?)

**Waverly sidewalk.** The Town Manager asked the Council for more guidance on design of the replacement sidewalk on Waverly from Montrose to Penn Place. After considerable discussion, the Council settled on no railings but including a six-inch high curb on the downhill side of the sidewalk, a sidewalk width of five feet, etc. The Town Manager will pass these requests to the Town Engineer. Sidewalk design will also include new lighting (with Town resident Chris Keller emphasizing the need to have a comprehensive project design including lighting and plantings).

Finally, the meeting came to updates. There was not much of great importance to report this time. However, for those of you who live in Chevy Houses, councilmember Paczkowski noted that the Historic Preservation Committee is planning a tour for the

spring of 2024. On that upbeat note, this report concludes.

Ed Lincoln  
Bugle Reporter

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## Town Manager’s Notes

### Important Dates:

- Monday, June 12, 2023 – Town Council meeting at 7:30 pm
- Monday, June 19, 2023 – Town Office closed for Juneteenth holiday
- Saturday, June 24, 2023 – Large item collection

**2023 Town Election** – Thanks to everyone who voted in this year’s Town Election. About 22% of eligible voters cast votes on May 1. Those elected took office on May 8. Congratulations to newly elected Town Councilmembers Todd Eisenstadt, Stephen Paczkowski, and Phil Schulp.

It truly takes a village to put on a municipal election. I would like to express my appreciation to our election judges (Suzanne Curt, Jenny Krivanek, and Louise Stomierowski), our poll workers (Cathy Allin, Courtenay Culp, Joanne Schmader, and Nancy Walz), and my Town staff colleagues. We were also fortunate to have the services of Electec staff member Matt Conolly. All of these individuals made it possible for us to hold a successful Town Election, and we’re grateful for their contributions.

### Attention All Garrett Park Landlords

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.

This means that, as of July 1, 2023, landlords in Garrett Park will need to comply with all County requirements for rental properties. 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. You can find the Handbook at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhca-landlordtenant](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhca-landlordtenant)  
**Garrett Park is Going Greener!**

The Town Council authorized funding for a 1-year pilot program to assess community interest in a municipally supported household organic waste composting program. The program got underway on May 1, and it’s off to a great start. To date, 65 households have signed up to participate. We have available funding for 113.



You can sign up for the pilot program at [www.Compostcrew.com](http://www.Compostcrew.com). Detailed information on the pilot program is available on the Town website at the following link:

[Compost Pilot Program Launched | Community Notices & News | Garrett Park, MD \(garrettparkmd.gov\)](#)

**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.

**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 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).

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.

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](mailto:Barbara.Matthews@garrettparkmd.gov).

Barb Matthews, Town Manager

**ANNUAL GP MUSICALE RETURNS TO TOWN HALL!**

**Sunday June 11, at 4pm**

What: *Music by and for Garrett Parkers with guest scholarship recipients!*

When/Where: *Garrett Park Town Hall*

*Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 4:00 pm*

Why: *To support of the Music Scholarship at GPES*

Your neighbors of all ages perform *live* music: pop, rock, folk, jazz, classical and more. We celebrate music education for all ages. Reconnect with friends and neighbors at the reception concluding the show.

Support our 27-year tradition of music scholarships for GPES students! All donations support the scholarship and are tax-deductible. The Music Scholarship is part of the Garrett Park Community Fund.

If you would like to play on the program, please contact Sue Petito at (240) 731-0985 or [s.petito@yahoo.com](mailto:s.petito@yahoo.com) or Meme Lincoln at (240) 447-2087 or [mshlincoln12@gmail.com](mailto:mshlincoln12@gmail.com).

## 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 Joanna Welch.

**Neighbor’s full name:** Joanna Roufa Welch

**Where do you live?** 11111 Kenilworth Avenue, a few houses north of the sledding hill.

**How long have you lived here?** Since Spring 2006

**Why did you choose to live in Garrett Park?** The charm and specialness of Garrett Park struck us the first time we visited with our realtor. In late 2010 we realized our charming little house, with its tiny bedrooms and rickety spiral staircase, wasn't going to be able to handle our growing family. We started looking for a new house, but the available stock in GP was low. We expanded our search radius a bit, but quickly figured out we'd never find anywhere as perfect for us as Garrett Park. The MARC train, Black Market Bistro, Spring blooms and Fall leaves, even the lack of home-delivery mail. They'd all cast their spell on us. So we started the process of designing and building our current home.

**Tell us about how it's going as Mayor.** With half my two-year term already gone, I feel like I finally have my sea legs. And I really like the work and the amazing people who work alongside me.

Part of my motivation for running in 2022 was to show that the job of Mayor can be done (and done well) by someone who can’t devote full-time attention to it. With the skill and diligence of two professional managers handling much of the work previously done by volunteer mayors, I’ve had the opportunity to have a 30,000-foot view of how we conduct official business in Garrett Park. There’s definitely room for improvement, and I hope to have my ideas in a sharable form in the coming months.

**What is your proudest career accomplishment and why?** I haven't had just one career. I've had stints as a teacher, as an office manager for a baseball printing company, as a journalist and radio producer, and now as a frozen-dessert maker. So it's hard to pick just one accomplishment. But I'm most proud of the popsicle work I'm doing with Carmen's Italian Ice. The owners have allowed me to build a quasi business-within-a-business. I get all the excitement and challenge of creating and growing a product line, but with none of the awake-in-the-middle-of-the-night terrors. The arrangement works really well for my family and me.

**What do you like most about living/working in Garrett Park?** I have a favorite bad joke about what it means to me to live in Garrett Park. I first told it when my daughter Ellie was in the 2s class at Garrett Park Nursery School. Another parent and I were chatting, and he asked how I liked the school. Without skipping a beat I said something along the lines of "I love getting to know the families of kids who will one day create a bunch of mischief with my kids." And while it's funny to think of a two-year-old as causing the kind of mayhem I had in mind at the time, it's actually really true. The thing I value most about being part of the Garrett Park community is knowing the folks who will patch up a skinned knee, bring dinner to new parents, and call me if they see my kid skipping school. What a village we have!

**What are your favorite local shops, restaurants or hangouts?** We are so fortunate to have local businesses to support. Aside from the main ones like Black Market Bistro and Java Nation, I'm also a big fan of Strosniders Hardware, Frankly ... Pizza!, Vignola Gourmet, and El Patio.

**If you were to suddenly find yourself with a free afternoon on a beautiful day, where could we most likely find you?** Rain or shine, my top free-afternoon activity is napping. Hoping to spend many a summer afternoon in my hammock.

**What is your current recommendation for streaming?** "Ted Lasso," for sure. During its first season, "Ted Lasso" gave me the gentleness and kindness I needed when the excruciating lockdown months of Covid were taking their toll. I've been a big fan ever since. On the other end of the emotional spectrum, I just finished streaming "A Small Light" on Disney+. It tells the story of Anne Frank, but from the perspective of her family's guardian angel Miep Gies.

**What else would you like to share about yourself or your family?** Our home is full of mammals. My husband of 21 years, Darren is an attorney and partner in the DC office of Skadden Arps. Ellie, who recently turned 13, is an experienced cat and kidsitter, and recently took up ballet. Henry is 10, and loves to play Minecraft, Pokemon Go, and street hockey. And our two Spanish Water Dogs are Felipe, who has just one white paw, and Quack Quack, who has the other three.



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