



Calendar

Sat Nov 4	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p; GIVES Collection, Post Office	Sat Nov 11	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Sat Nov 4	Brewfest, Cambria Park, 4p – 8p	Mon Nov 13	GP Town Council Meeting, 7:30p, Hybrid
Sun Nov 5	Tree Walk with Town Arborist, Penn Place, 1p	Wed Nov 15	Arboretum Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p
Sun Nov 5	GIVES Soup Dinner, Town Hall, 5p	Sat Nov 18	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p; GIVES Collection, Post Office
Wed Nov 8	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7p	Sat Nov 18	Thanksgiving Day; Town Office Closed
Fri Nov 10	Veterans Day (obs.); Town Office Closed	Thurs Nov 24	Town Office Closed

Town Council Meeting Notes

The October Town Council meeting was dominated by plans for renovation of the Town Hall. My plan for this brief report is to go through all the other business of the meeting first, and then turn to the big topic of the Town Hall.

The meeting opened with our Montgomery County District Four Councilmember Kate Stewart reading a proclamation honoring Garrett Park on the 125th anniversary of the Town’s incorporation in 1897. Three cheers for Garrett Park!

During residents’ presentations, Chris Keller emphasized the need to have the Town’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds reallocated in the fiscal 2025 budget when it is drawn up early next year. This reallocation came up later in the meeting and I will return to it.

Next came Town Manager Barbara Matthews’ monthly report. Of the several topics in her report, I will mention one here (see her report posted on the town website for further detail of other issues). The Town has been notified by the Maryland Historic Trust that the removal of the former Yeandle house on Kenilworth (now owned by the Town) represents an adverse effect on the Garrett Park Historic District. This finding does not block removal of the house, but requires the Town to do several things to mitigate the impact, specifically photographic documentation of the house and property and development of a public information project focused on the contributions of women in Garrett Park. There may be some delay in the house demolition while the associated agreement gets signed by the parties.

Under action items, there was only one: purchase of a new town pickup truck for a little more than

\$50,000. This issue generated a bit of discussion about whether an electric truck would be a possibility, but the answer was that electric trucks are not well-suited for snow plowing and other maintenance activities for which the truck will be used. The truck purchase was approved.

Unfinished business included two items other than the discussion of the Town Hall renovation: a speed bump on Weymouth Street and the need for capital budget planning:

Weymouth. In response to a request from residents on Weymouth, the Town has been considering installation of a speed bump. After some discussion, the Council voted unanimously to add the speed bump to the list of road paving work that will be done next Spring.

Capital Budget. Councilmember Stephen Paczkowski noted that the Town’s capital budget is in need of a comprehensive plan. At present, funds in the annual budget are allocated to various line items in the capital budget without consideration of priorities, project time frame, likely cost, etc. He proposed that the Town create a capital plan to guide allocations to the capital budget. After some discussion, the Mayor said that this topic would be added to the agenda of an upcoming Town Council retreat.

Under new business, Town Manager Matthews brought up the need to reallocate ARPA funds (the issue raised in residents’ presentations by Chris Keller). Much of the million dollars the Town has received from the federal government is allocated to the Town Hall renovation. Under ARPA rules, contracts using this money must be signed by December 31, 2024, just over a year from now. Given the complexity of this project and the steps

that remain before contracts are signed, there is concern that the Town will not meet the deadline. Town Manager Matthews recommended addressing this issue soon by reallocating ARPA funds for other, already approved and funded town expenditures. This is simple. Time-restricted ARPA can be reallocated to other budget items while the non-time-sensitive revenues currently allocated to those expenditures will be shifted to the Town Hall project. As we economists like to say, money is fungible. She will draw up a budget amendment incorporating these changes for consideration at the November Council Meeting.

OK, folks, now let us move onto the discussion of renovating the Town Hall. This part of the meeting began with a slide presentation by Assistant Town Manager Kayla Buker, summarizing the results of the survey conducted by the Town. That survey asked residents questions about the three concept designs presented by Wiedemann Architects in September, and the Town received 163 responses. The results showed no overwhelming support for any of the three choices. Positive responses ranged from “neutral,” to support with changes, and accept as-is. These neutral to positive responses were quite fractured. Meanwhile, on the negative side, those expressing opposition ranged from 27 percent for the lowest-cost design, to 39 percent for the mid-range design, and 48 percent for the high-end design.

With none of the three conceptual designs garnering overwhelming support, mayor Welch called for discussion of a list of individual design elements. This proposal led to some discussion as to whether the Council should focus on this list of possible elements first, or should it establish a budget ceiling first and evaluate choices on a cost basis. The result was to stick with wish list first and address cost later when there is a firmer design to consider.

Some items, such as making the building Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, or replacing deteriorating siding on the building, would have to be included in any renovation. Therefore, there was no discussion about them. This left a set of just over a dozen individual items that the council considered under the Mayor’s guidance.

- Remove the front addition where the two bathrooms are located. Yes.
- Add a full basement under the whole building. No.
- Include a full commercial kitchen (rather than a warming kitchen). No.
- Add solar panels on the roof. Yes, but perhaps postpone to the future.
- Add a generator to provide electricity in times of power outage. Yes.
- Restore the original church tower. Yes.
- Add an access ramp to the doors on the north side of the building. No.
- Lower the stage floor to match the rest of the floor. No.
- Remove the rear additions (the area to the rear of the main hall) and rebuild. Yes.
- Add a trellis or arbor in the back yard. No.

- Relocate the two bathrooms to the rear of the building. Yes.
- Lay a new floor and carpet in the main hall. Yes.
- Add a partial basement, below the rebuilt rear of the building. TBD – more discussion needed.

Not in this list, but recurring in the discussions, there was a preference for keeping an open design inside the building to facilitate the movement of people, refreshments, and tables/chairs. And there was not much interest in having a smaller, second meeting room in the rear area of the building.

What next? On the basis of this list, the Town will ask Wiedemann to provide a rough design incorporating the wish list items. This will provide a basis for further discussion leading to a final design. Stay tuned; lots left to decide.

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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Town Manager’s Notes

Important Dates:

- Friday, November 10, 2023 – Town Office closed for Veteran’s Day holiday
- Monday, November 13, 2023 – Town Council meeting at 7:30 pm
- Thursday, November 23, 2023 – Town Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- Friday, November 24, 2023 – Town Office closed for Day after Thanksgiving holiday

Fall Leaf Collection

The Town has contracted with Bethke Landscaping to provide once a week collection of leaves. Service will be provided until mid-December. Leaves will be collected as early in the week as possible, but rain or inclement weather will delay their pickup.

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.

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.

Parents, please discourage your children from playing in the leaves along the curb.

Grotto Property Now in Town Ownership

In spring 2022, Rob Pratt approached the Town about his family's interest in donating a property parcel to the Town. It is located in the 4700 block of Argyle Avenue and is commonly referred to as the Grotto property.

The Grotto property has played an important role in Garrett Park history. According to research conducted by Town Archivist Claire McDonald, the former pavilion on the property and the nearby spring (Grotto) were a major selling point for the Town of Garrett Park; they were specifically mentioned in an 1890 sales brochure.

On September 11, 2023, the Town Council adopted Ordinance No. 2023-3 which provided for the acceptance of a gift deed for the entirety of the Grotto property. As requested by the Pratt Family, the ordinance includes certain covenants. The covenants are outlined below:

- The stone Grotto on the property will be preserved as a part of Garrett Park history.
- No structures (accessory dwellings, sheds, etc.) are to be placed on the lot. A bench, a garden, or a badminton court are allowed.
- The Pratt family prefers that the entire parcel be conveyed to the Town and remain in Town ownership; however, the family consented to the front half of the lot (the part containing the Grotto) remaining in Town ownership while allowing the rear portion of the property to be sold by the Town to the adjacent property owners. Any future sale to an adjacent property owner must include a provision that no structures are to be built on the acquired property.

In early October, Mayor Welch signed settlement documents, transferring ownership of the Grotto property from the Pratt family to the Town. The property will remain in a natural, unmanicured state. In the coming months, the Town will be removing approximately 18 invasive trees. The invasives are all younger, understory trees so their removal will not impact the wooded appearance of the property.

The Town is grateful to the Pratt family for their generous gift to the Garrett Park community and for their interest in preserving this important part of the Town's history.

Holiday Gifts

If you would like to contribute a holiday gift to the 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.

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. Enrollment currently stands at 70, so there's plenty of room for more participants.

You can sign up for the pilot program at www.Compostcrew.com. If you have any questions, November 2023

please reach out to Assistant Town Manager Kayla Buker at Kayla.Buker@garrettparkmd.gov or at (301) 933-7488.

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

Call Todd today, your local neighborhood realtor!

TODD HARRIS HOMES

cell: 301-455-5440
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~ Garrett Park resident ~

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GIVES

Hello Garrett Park! While we're enjoying spectacular weather and gorgeous fall colors, it's easy to forget that others are struggling. And as the colder weather and holiday season approaches, it's more important than ever to think about the homeless. To that end, please join GIVES for the annual Soup Supper fundraiser -- Sunday, November 5th from 5-7pm at Town Hall. Come be part of a nearly 50 year Garrett Park tradition to help those in need while sharing delicious homemade soups with your neighbors. Consider donating the money you would have spent on dinner to help support [Stepping Stones Shelter](#) in Rockville, MD and [Thrive DC](#) in Washington, DC -- homeless shelters that benefit tremendously from all your donations of any

amount. Joining us again this year will be representatives from these 2 worthy organizations to share with us how they and their constituents are coping. GIVES will provide tables and chairs, cups, napkins and water and a cozy ambiance. Guests are asked to bring soup or bread or salad to share and your own bowl and/or plate and utensils. Feel free to bring your beverage of choice. In addition to monetary donations (checks or cash only), we will also be collecting travel-sized toiletries for Thrive DC and we'll be kicking off our annual Winter Coat Collection, so feel free to bring any new or gently used and laundered coats you would like to donate and drop them in the box.

Thinking about a year end donation of what to give a friend who has everything? Please remember GIVES Gift Donation Cards will be available at our upcoming monthly collection table on Saturday, November 4th, November 18th and December 16th. If you miss us then, please consider using the GIVES can on the table in the post office when you stop by to pick up your mail. Or you can send donations to GIVES at P.O. Box 331, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

In 2024, GIVES will continue with in-person collections outside the Post Office (weather permitting) on the first and third Saturday of each month. If you've volunteered to join [GIVES](#) and host Saturday morning collections, you will soon receive an email with a link to a Sign-Up Genius. Please choose the date/time that works best for you in 2024. And if you haven't joined GIVES but are looking for a way to become involved in your local community, help others less fortunate, and can spare JUST 2 HOURS PER YEAR, please contact us at garrettparkgives@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you at the Soup Supper. Wishing you a continued beautiful fall season.

With gratitude,
Molly Shuck, Natalie Grande and Therese Keating

Don't just take my word for it

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10401 Market

Find us on Facebook

SAVE THE DATE!



CENTENNIAL CHEVY HOUSE TOUR **SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024** **Sponsored by the Garrett Park Archives & Historic Preservation Committees**

Join in to celebrate 100 years of Garrett Park's distinctive Chevy Houses. The self-guided tour will feature some of the original features plus creative expansions and renovations.

"Into this sylvan wilderness in the post-war summer of 1924, during the reign of Mayor Ben Durr, came a syndicate of retired military men, lately incorporated as Maddux, Marshall & Co., real estate developers. They came with novel ideas. Garrett Park would be the perfect site to mass produce low-cost housing for "military people and others of modest means"--"the realization of the dream of the family of small income . . . in an environment fit for millionaires."

The company offered three styles of one-story houses, each with a built-in, two-tube radio and, as an option to be included in the mortgage, a garage and a Chevrolet - roadster, touring car, coupe or sedan. The automobile option was said to be a "first" in real estate development promotion. The basic price of the two-bedroom model Roseland was \$4,950. A garage could be added for just \$150, and a Chevrolet cost \$708 to \$820, depending upon the model chosen."

Excerpt from [Chevrolet House In The Suburb Primeval](#), Ben Franklin, 1967, published in *Garrett Park, A History of The Town From Its Beginnings To 1970*; Town of Garrett Park, 1974

For more information, contact
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INTEGRITY, HONESTY, TENACITY—RESULTS!!

inspired *Garrett Park: A History*, the only published history book about the town.

Over the years, Garrett Park’s story has been told in other ways. In 1988, town leaders published a scrapbook featuring a wonderful selection of photographs of Garrett Park through the decades. Reprints of the scrapbook are available for purchase in the Town Office. Another incredible source for discovering the town’s story is the Oral History Collection in the Archives. Come by and peruse the catalog, read transcripts, and even listen to some original recordings.

In the Archives, we continue to explore ways to tell the story of Garrett Park. In fact, this past summer, I was interviewed by Montgomery Municipal Cable as part of the town’s 125th Anniversary, and the producers created an information-packed short about the town’s history. You can catch it on [YouTube](#).

What else are we doing? I’m revisiting sources we have in the Archives to identify parts of the town’s story that may have been missed or overlooked. I also began reviewing our oral history transcripts against original audio recordings to ensure the transcripts are complete and accurate. Lastly, members of the Archives Committee plan to collect some new oral histories, and they would love to hear from you if you wish to channel your inner Barbara Walters and help with the effort.

From the Archives

Have you checked out the Archives’ newest exhibit in the post office lobby? It’s about the story of Garrett Park.

One of the town’s earliest storytellers was Harriett “Hattie” Holmes Defandorf. Hattie was born in Ohio in 1863. She moved to Washington, DC, in 1883 and studied art at the Corcoran Gallery. Six years later, Hattie married Jason Defandorf, and by 1893, the couple joined the first settlers of Garrett Park. Hattie was a founding member of the Civic Study Club, which later became the Women’s Club. She wrote the first known history of Garrett Park as a remembrance for her grandchildren. This work later

Citizens Association Notes

A big thank you to everyone who came out for this year’s Spooky Woods, especially to all of our volunteers! And thank you to Mayor Welch for getting the event covered by MCCS: Here are a few photos from the weekend.

