



### Calendar

Sat Feb 3	No Chicano Sol Farm Stand	Mon Feb 19	Presidents' Day; Town Office Closed
Sun Feb 4	Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6p	Weds Feb 21	Arboretum Comm. Meeting, Town Hall, 7p
Tues Feb 6	Historic Preservation Comm. Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30p	Weds Feb 28	Town Council Budget Work Session, Town Hall & Zoom, 7p
Sat Feb 10	GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a		
Mon Feb 12	GP Town Council Meeting, Town Hall & Zoom, 7p		

*\*Chicano Sol will confirm with the Town Office when they will start in February. Please check the calendar on the Town's website for up-to-date info.*

### Town Council Meeting Notes

No critical developments at the January Town Council meeting. But that does not mean you should stop reading. If you stop, you will not learn something about songbirds. There was enough to discuss about birds and other topics that the meeting lasted until almost 11:00 p.m. That was despite the fact that approval of the agenda and approval of the minutes happened quickly with no revision. And, there were no residents' presentations.

The Town Manager's monthly report contained several points worth highlighting here (see her report on the Town website, for a more complete list).

Revenues continue to run higher than expected.

For example, income tax receipts as of the end of November are at 92 percent of the anticipated amount for the full fiscal year in the current budget. And investment income is now double what was anticipated for the full fiscal year. This means that the Town will likely have a sizable surplus at the end of the fiscal year (which ends June 30, 2024).

Yeandle Park. The Maryland Board of Public Works has granted Garrett Park the ability to use state Program Open Space Local and Community Parks and Playgrounds funds to develop the park.

Town Hall. Issues related to the renovation of the Town Hall were not an agenda line item for this meeting. But Town Manager Matthews did have news on what is happening in her monthly report. Wiedemann Architects and its subconsultant Axias LLC are developing a cost estimate for the concept plan for renovation that the town council had approved at the December meeting. And she has filed paperwork with the office of our state delegate, Jared Solomon, requesting \$750,000 in grant funds for the project via the legislative bond bill initiative process. However, she pointed out that as work is about to start on devising the next fiscal year state budget, the

whole fiscal environment at the state government has changed. Whether our project receives funding, therefore, is somewhat uncertain.

At the end of the Town Manager's presentation, considerable discussion arose concerning a tentative work session scheduled for January 22. Councilmembers were uncertain about what the purpose of the work session would be, and whether it was really necessary. The idea of monthly or periodic work sessions was one of the ideas discussed at the Council's retreat last Fall. The Town Manager and Mayor agreed to work up a draft agenda and ask Councilmembers if it would provide sufficient basis for a work session.

Only one action item was on the agenda, but it was an important one. Strathmore Avenue is a State road. That means the State is responsible for issues such as mowing the grass and trimming trees that are on the road's right-of-way. In reality, the Town has been doing much of this work, without cost reimbursement by the state. However, whether the Town has the right to handle trimming the trees is in doubt—and the Town would prefer to do this work on its own, given the State's tendency for overly zealous trimming. The Town Manager has been working with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to clarify this in a new memorandum of understanding (MOU), and she presented a draft drawn up by SHA. Discussion mostly dealt with the removal and replacement of complete trees, and the need to clarify that the State would pay for trees removed and replaced by the Town. The Council authorized the Town Manager to continue to work with SHA on a new MOU.

Unfinished business consisted of one item: a proposed ordinance to require real estate sellers to inform buyers about Town rules and regulations that affect their property, such as the need for a Town

building permit (in addition to a County permit) for any construction. This had been discussed at an earlier Town Council meeting, and on that basis the Town Manager provided a draft document, along with information on what other incorporated municipalities (e.g., Chevy Chase and Kensington) have done. This topic produced quite a bit of discussion. The bottom line was that the Council is generally in favor of such a requirement, with some suggestions for revision of the draft document to provide a bit more detail to buyers. Councilmembers also favored including a requirement for a signed affidavit (affirming that the buyer had received and read the document about Town requirements) to be filed with the Town. There was no vote, but simply further guidance to the Town Manager in developing the document that would be provided by sellers or their real estate agent to buyers.

New Business included three items.

**Committee appointment.** The Council quickly approved the appointment of Michele Russell-Einhorn to an open seat on the Historic Preservation Committee.

**Penalties and fines.** Town Manager Matthews brought up the desirability of updating the penalties and fines in the Town Code, which apparently has not been amended for many years. Did you know that it is illegal under the Garrett Park Town Code to harm song birds, or hunt rabbits, or for minors to carry firearms? The Council spent considerable time going through a list of 22 separate prohibited activities to provide updated fine levels (with the highest new level at \$1,000). The town manager will incorporate these changes and present the Council with a revised code to vote on in the future. The question of whether some prohibited activities are outdated and should be eliminated was left for future consideration.

**New Lighting along Waverly sidewalk.**

Councilmember Schulp provided a slide presentation of several possible choices for lamps along Waverly (from Montrose to Penn Place) as part of the project to redo that stretch of sidewalk. Replicating the lamps along Strathmore is one possibility, but he is inclined to adopt something else, and will circulate the slides among Councilmembers so they can express their preferences.

Waverly street lights concluded the agenda and the meeting was adjourned.

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 12, 2024 – Town Council Meeting – 7:30 pm
- Monday, February 19, 2024 – Town Office closed for Presidents Day holiday
- Wednesday, February 28, 2024 – Special Town Council Meeting/FY 2025 Budget Work Session – 7:00 pm

**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 "Town of Garrett Park" is written in the box labeled "City, Town or Taxing Area." The political subdivision code for the Town is 1604.

<b>REQUIRED:</b> Maryland Physical address of taxing area as of December 31, 2023 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	MD	State	ZIP Code + 4 Maryland County

### Snow Removal and Sidewalk Clearing

As we learned in January, the winter season is fully upon us. I wanted to share some actions you can take to help the Town and your neighbors navigate inclement weather safely.

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.

If you don't have the option of parking off the street, the Town requests that residents park on only side of the street. In the case of the narrow, dead end streets on the south side of Garrett Park, the plows cannot get through when there is parking on both sides. This results in the maintenance team members having to knock on doors to ask residents to move their cars – time that could be better spent on plowing and de-icing activities.

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.

### 2024 Town Election

The 2024 Town Election will be held on Monday, May 6. Voters will select candidates for the office of Mayor and two members of the Town Council (the seats currently held by Gerilee Bennett and Lisa Max).

In accordance with the Town Charter, individuals may be nominated for elective office at a meeting that shall occur at least 30 days prior to the election, or by petition signed by ten registered voters and



filed with the Town Manager at least 21 days before the date of the Town Election.

The date of the Nominating Meeting and the deadline for submission of petitions will be finalized in mid-February. The dates will be published on the Town website and distributed on the GPML and the Town Forum list servs.

### Planning for a Spring Project?

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](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.

Have a permit question? Email [permits@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:permits@garrettparkmd.gov) for help.

### Welcome to New Town Employee

In mid-January, Jeannette Lichtenwalner joined the Town Office staff. Jeannette is our part-time Records and Office Assistant and is a great addition to the Garrett Park team.

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

Barb Matthews, Town Manager

## From the Archives

For many of us, sitting down to knit or crochet on a cold winter's day is a fun and relaxing way to pass the time. But did you know that during World War 1 and World War 2, it was considered your patriotic duty to knit, crochet, or sew to both economize and to provide much needed supplies to service members and support forces? Spearheaded by the Red Cross, and fueled by Red Cross volunteers, women's clubs, 4-H programs, and other organizations, knitting took on new meaning for women and girls (and some men) during times of war.

## Knitting Is Patriotic – Fashion

FROM shop-girl to socialite, practically EVERY woman is interested in knitting for National Defense. Here's the complete, self-instruction course that will make your knitting yield more uses and more pleasures than ever — the wonderful book for which the women of help you to every member every patriot

“Our Boys” Need Sweaters! Helmets! Gloves! Socks

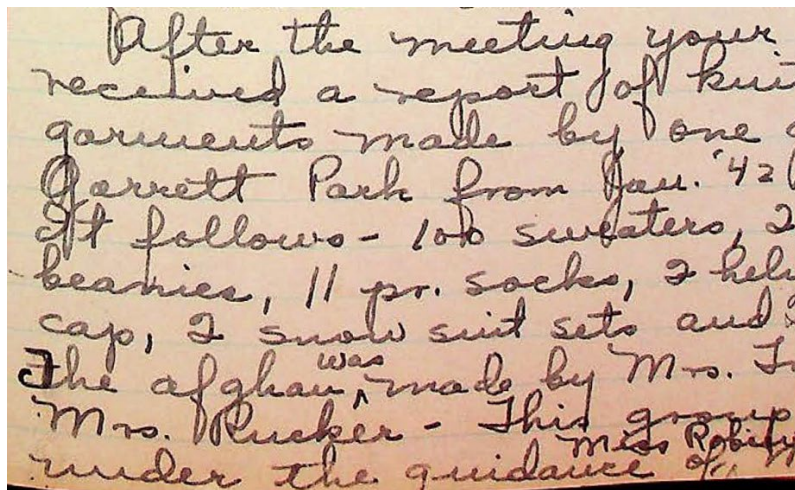
From an Advertisement, *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), May 10, 1942, *Chronicling America*

During World War 2, the Red Cross distributed wool yarn and shared patterns for sweaters, socks, mittens, scarves, blankets, and even surgical dressings. Check out some of the patterns at:

<https://www.knitheaven.com/vintagepatterns/kyb.htm>

Even before the U.S. joined the war, Garrett Park women were already supporting Red Cross relief efforts in a variety of ways, but the war brought a greater sense of purpose and urgency. Minutes from the Civic Study Club, which later became the Women's Club, offer just a small glimpse as to how town women helped with the effort from the very beginning.

On February 4, 1943, club secretary, Frances Johnson wrote:



After the meeting your secretary received a report of knitted garments made by one group in Garrett Park from Jan. '42 to Jan '43. It follows - 100 sweaters, 2 beanies, 11 pr. socks, 2 helmets, 1 navy cap, 2 snow suit sets and 1 afghan. The afghan was made by Mrs. J. Rucker - This group worked under the guidance of Mrs. Putnam. Miss Robinette was there.

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Interested learning more about the many contributions of the Garrett Park Civic Study Club (Women's Club)? Visit the Town Archives.

Claire McDonald, MPA:HA, MLIS  
Town Archivist





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 walking tour of eight homes will feature some of their original features plus creative expansions. You will feel that you are back in the 1920s as you view original front porches, brick fireplaces, bathtubs and fixtures, dining nooks, kitchen cabinets and former murphy bed closets that now hold shelves with family collectibles. You will see how the renovations have accommodated growing families and contemporary lifestyles.

Docents will be available in each home to talk about the unique features and what today’s homeowners think about living in one of Garrett Park’s iconic Chevys with such an interesting local history.

The tour is from 1 to 5 pm with a reception following at the Town Hall where additional artifacts and memorabilia will be on display. Current owners will be there to talk about recent improvements they have made, as well as our Town Archivist, Claire McDonald, and representatives of Garrett Park’s Archives & Historic Preservation Committees.

**We’re looking for volunteers! If you’re interested, please contact Henri Keller, [hkeller4501@verizon.net](mailto:hkeller4501@verizon.net).**

For general information, contact [nancywalz@gmail.com](mailto:nancywalz@gmail.com).



## Op-Ed

### The Town Council Then and Now – Observations of a Longtime Resident

I have attended many recent Town Council meetings and have several observations regarding recent Councils, as contrasted with Councils when I served as a Councilmember in the late 1990s.

Town Councils in the 1990s. “Back in the day,” each Council member was given a legislative portfolio by the mayor (Peter Benjamin back then). For example, my portfolio was budget and legal issues. To be successful, it was understood that Councilmembers would work on select issues, often with the assistance of Town residents. For me, that included renegotiating the rent that the Post Office paid the Town for its space in Penn Place, and proposing Town charter amendments that reformed the budget process and allowed non-US citizens that are Town residents to vote in Garrett Park elections. Other examples – Dick Morgan was responsible for street work (with the assistance of resident Dick Pratt) and Chris Fischman worked to reorganize Garrett Park street lights throughout the Town, especially to address the problem of dark areas.

Town Councils Now. Recent Town Councils do less of the initial spadework regarding Town issues and problems. Nor do they solicit the assistance of Town residents who have expertise. Rather, recent Councils rely more heavily on the work of the Town Manager/Assistant Town Manager and on contractual

assistance. For example, while then-mayor Peter Benjamin prepared the draft budget, that is now done by Town Manager Barb Matthews.

Perhaps the most concrete example highlighting the differences is the refurbishment of Penn Place many years ago versus the emerging plan to renovate Town Hall. For Penn Place, the Council recruited Town resident and architect Harry Gordon (no longer a resident), aided by resident Dick Fischman, to run a public process of defining options and recommendations, leading to a draft initial renovation plan. (That process was called a “charrette”.) In contrast, for Town Hall, the current Council requested contractor assistance to define potential options, and then held a Town Council meeting to allow residents to offer their views on those options. I don’t allege that the Penn Place process was superior, although it was certainly less expensive because it did not rely on contractors from the “get-go.” Want

another example? Take Town voting. Recently, the Town has converted paper balloting to electronic voting, run by a contractor. Quick and easy? Yes. But at what cost? What used to cost the Town almost nothing now costs about \$25 for each and every Town voter.

In conclusion, I am not suggesting that the changes over the past 25 years have been bad. But I do conclude that the changes have led to increased costs and a feeling among some Town residents – myself included– that the Town could benefit by utilizing residents’ expertise a great deal more than is currently the case. Moving forward, I hope that the next Council might consider these concerns.

Ken Schwartz  
Clermont Ave.



**9am-9pm  
Mon-Sat  
9am-7pm  
Sunday**  
301-493-6217  
[www.grosvenormarket.com](http://www.grosvenormarket.com)

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