



Calendar

Sat Mar 2	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Sat Mar 16	GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a
Sat Mar 2	GIVES Collection, Post Office, 9a – 11a	Wed Mar 20	Election Nominations Meeting, Town Hall & Virtual, 5:30p
Wed Mar 6	Historic Preservation Comm. Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30p	Sat Mar 23	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Sat Mar 9	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p	Wed Mar 27	Nomination by Petition Deadline, Submitted to Town Manager, 4pm
Mon Mar 11	GP Town Council Meeting, Town Hall & Virtual, 7:30p	Sat Mar 30	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p
Sat Mar 16	Chicano Sol Farm Stand, Penn Place, 9a – 1p		<i>*No Arboretum Committee mtg. this month</i>

Town Council Meeting Notes

The Town Council met on a dreary, cold, drizzly night. That may explain why there was only one resident in the audience other than your reporter. February’s meeting got off to a quick start. No changes to the draft agenda, no changes to the draft minutes of the January meeting, and no presentations by residents.

The Town Manager’s report pointed out sources of revenue that continue to run higher than anticipated in the original 2024 fiscal year budget, principally income tax receipts and earnings on the Town’s investment account. The Town Office renovation at Penn Place slowed down while the town dealt with County permitting issues. Permits are also in process for the Waverly sidewalk project. And Town Manager Matthews thanked our maintenance team, George Miller and Frank Breazeale, for their long hours of hard work clearing the Town streets in the snow storm during the week of January 15. Thank you, guys!

The most significant topic in the monthly report was about the Town Hall. Additional information was submitted in support of the Town’s request for \$750,000 in state funds for renovation of the Town Hall. The legislature will consider all such projects during its budgeting process between now and early April. The big news concerning the Town Hall, though, was not in the written report. In her oral remarks Town Manager Matthews said that the Town has now received a new set of drawings from Wiedemann Architects based on the design elements that the Council requested at the December meeting. These were needed for the formal request for state

funding. And, the consulting firm Axias, subcontracted by Wiedemann, has provided a cost estimate for the revised design. Here is the bottom line: \$2,682,165. This amount does not include the cost of architectural and engineering fees needed for permit drawings and construction administration services. Because these reports had just recently been received by the Town, they were not on the agenda for the February meeting, so no discussion took place. However, both the architectural drawings and the cost estimate report were posted to the Town’s website on the day following the Council meeting. On the home page, click on “Town Hall Renovation” and then scroll down to “Wiedemann Architects—4th Concept Design and Cost Estimate.”

The agenda included four action items, mostly routine. Here they are:

Authorization to engage an auditor for the annual audit when the current fiscal year ends on June 30. The firm will be the same one used this past year. This authorization passed unanimously.

Contract for work enhancing drainage and other site improvements at the Community Center (i.e. the nursery school). These improvements had been discussed at earlier Council meetings and include new or replaced sidewalks, an ADA compliant handicap parking spot, and others. After just a bit of further discussion, the Council approved unanimously an expenditure not to exceed \$100,000 to D&F Construction.

Mid-year budget adjustment. Now that the fiscal year is half over, it is time for the usual mid-year adjustments to the budget. As is the case with all expenditure ordinances, this one must be introduced, and then given final approval at the following

Council meeting. The adjustments are substantial, mainly due to the higher-than-expected income tax revenues. In total, the adjustment is for increased revenues of \$516,830, a 29 percent increase above the original budget. This additional revenue would then go mainly to the Town Hall renovation (\$325,000) and capital contingencies (\$223,963). “Contingencies” basically means capital funds that are not allocated to any specific project yet. After a bit of discussion, the Council voted unanimously to introduce the budget changes.

Real Property Sale Disclosures. Discussed at an earlier Council meeting, this ordinance would require sellers of property to give the buyer a disclosure about Town property requirements (e.g., that any construction work requires a Town building permit in addition to a County permit, or that there is a prohibition on removing trees or shrubs that are on the Town right-of-way). After a discussion that produced a few tweaks in the language of the disclosure to be given to buyers, the Council voted unanimously to introduce the ordinance, and it will be scheduled for final approval at the March Council meeting.

Having approved all four action items, the meeting moved on to unfinished business, of which there was only item: new lighting fixtures alongside the stretch of sidewalk on Waverly from Montrose to Penn Place that is to be rebuilt. This had been discussed at previous meetings, but now the Town Government has input from the Town’s Historic Preservation Committee. The Committee recommended that the Town install lights that are the same design as either the ones on Strathmore, or the “teardrop” style lamps on Town roads. Councilmember Schulp made another slide presentation regarding choices of teardrop lamps that would be similar but not necessarily identical to existing lights. He will consult further with the Historic Preservation Committee.

New business consisted of two items:

Compost. Just in case you are not familiar with this, the Town began a pilot program last year to partially subsidize collection of kitchen compostable materials by a private firm. The firm collects materials, and then periodically returns compost for garden use. The pilot year is coming to an end, so the question is what to do. The Council settled on extending the subsidy and continuing to advertise its availability to town residents. If you are interested in participating, you can sign up at compostcrew.com, or if you have questions contact the Town Office.

Election. The annual Town election will be Monday, May 6. Announcements about nominations and the candidates forum will be forthcoming from the Citizen’s Association. Stay tuned.

The evening concluded with Town updates, of which the one of greatest importance was Councilmember Bennett’s update on the St. Angela Hall development (the site of the former nunnery). The developers have now obtained approval of the preliminary plan, with a fairly major change. The original plan had called for inclusion of an assisted living center, but the partner firm that would have handled this part of the development has dropped out.

March 2024

Instead, there will be a few more stand-alone houses and townhouses. This change also reduces the number of access roads from Strathmore into the development from three to two. The developer hopes to have all the permits in place by the fall of 2024, with construction beginning in 2025.

Back out into the dreary, cold, drizzly night.

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*

Citizens Association Officers
Steve Welker, President ~ Thomas DiChiara, Vice-President ~ Rory Smith, Treasurer ~ Betty Fout, Secretary

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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, March 4, 2024 – Town Council Meeting – 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – Nominating Meeting for 2024 Town Election – 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 27, 2024 – Deadline for Candidate Nominations by Petition – 4:00 pm
- Monday, April 1, 2024 – Deadline for Candidates for Office to File Financial Disclosure Form – 4:00 pm
- Saturday, April 6, 2024 – Quarterly Large Item Collection

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.”

REQUIRED: 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

The political subdivision code for the Town is 1604.

2024 Town Election

This year’s Town election will be held on Monday, May 6. Voters will select candidates for the office of mayor and councilmember (the two seats currently held by Gerilee Bennett and Lisa Max).

The candidates shall be considered elected as of May 6 and shall take office at the next Town Council meeting after the election (Monday, May 13).

Qualifications for Candidacy

Qualifications for elected office are set forth in the Garrett Park Town Charter. All candidates for elected office shall be citizens of the United States, shall have resided in the Town for at least one year prior to their election, and shall be qualified voters of the Town.

All candidates for elected office are required to file a financial disclosure form with the Town. For the 2024 election, candidates must do so no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, April 1. Failure to file the required financial disclosure form by this deadline shall result in the removal of the candidate's name from the election ballot. The financial disclosure form can be found on the Town [website](#).

Nomination Process for Town Elected Office

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 2024 Nominating Meeting will be hosted by the Garrett Park Citizens Association. It will be held at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 20. The Nominating Meeting will be held in a hybrid fashion (in person at Town Hall and via Zoom) to facilitate the involvement of as many Garrett Park residents as possible.

The deadline for submitting candidate nominations by petition is 4:00 pm on Wednesday, March 27. Petitions must be signed by ten registered voters. Signed petitions should be submitted to Town Manager Barb Matthews, either in person at the Town Office or via email to

Barbara.Matthews@garrettparkmd.gov.

Installing a Fence, Solar Panels, or a Pool? Planning a Spring Home Improvement Project?

Are you planning to install a fence, solar panels, or a pool? If so, you will need to apply for an obtain a letter from the Town to submit to Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services.

Also, please keep in mind that a Garrett Park building permit is required when a new structure is to be built, including houses, home 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](#).

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 for assistance?

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

Citizens Association Notes

Thank you to everyone who came out to Town Dinner! In addition to a great night of food, drink and fun, the CA elected its officers for 2024. The 2023 officers (Steve Welker, President; Tom DiChiara, Vice President; Rory Smith, Treasurer; and Betty Fout, Secretary) were re-elected to serve another term.

From the Archives

The Garrett Park Town Archives might be small, but we have numerous archival gems in our collections. One such gem is the town's very first newspaper, *The Park*, Volume 1, Number 1, published on August 15, 1895. A descendant of Beverly T. Galloway, one of the town's earliest residents donated the paper to the archives about 13 years ago.



The four-page, folio style paper contains articles extolling the virtues of suburban life, updating residents on plans to build the St. James Chapel (today's Town Hall), and providing updates on the comings and goings of the town's mostly part-time residents.

The Park is not only interesting for its content, but also for the people who were behind it. The masthead on page two reveals the publishers of the paper to be J.B. Springer and F.L. Bingham. After some detective work that involved reviewing old census records, property records, and newspaper articles through *Chronicling America*, I determined that J.B. Springer was Jenny B. Halloran Springer, a former teacher and the first wife of Horace P. Springer, one of the earliest recorded lot owners in town. F.L. Bingham was Florence Lorraine Bingham, a student at Columbian College (now Columbian College of Arts and Sciences at George Washington

University). Bingham was the daughter of part-time Garrett Park residents Albert and Emma Bingham.

To my knowledge, *The Park*, Volume 1, Issue 1 was the only issue of this newspaper, but I would love to be proven wrong! If you are near the Town Archives one Friday afternoon, feel free to stop by to check out this piece of Garrett Park history.

Claire McDonald, MPA:HA, MLIS
Town Archivist

Councilmember.Stewart@montgomerycountymd.gov
240-777-7968

Public Safety Committee members

1. Sidney Katz (Chair) District 3. 240-777-7906
2. Dawn Luedtke. District 7. 240-777-7860
3. Kristin Mink. District 5. 240-777-7955

Beth Mullen

Op-Ed

Although a Montgomery County’s Animal Services Advisory Committee member, I write this as a county resident and Garrett Park community member. Despite a 6.8-billion-dollar budget, our County offers county residents no spaying and neutering services. The county shelter, Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC), spays and neuters adoptable animals, and I am incredibly grateful for the work of the shelter staff. Sheltering is challenging, emotional work.

MCASAC opened in 2014. It’s celebrating its 10th anniversary. Yet, the celebration is marred by the County’s lack of funding for a vital service that reduces unwanted animals. In 2024, the shelter sent out several pleas for people to adopt dogs, or they would euthanize dogs. A low-cost spay-neuter voucher system disbanded when the “new” facility opened a decade ago.

The budget for the county shelter is close to \$10 million. Last year, the committee wrote and sent a proposal to the Public Safety Committee of the County Council (Animal Services falls under PSC) for a mobile spay and neuter van. Fido Fixers, a non-profit, provides fully-equipped surgery vans to eligible communities for \$12. per year. (Yes, twelve dollars) The proposal requested approximately \$285K to staff and stock the van.

The condition imposed by Fido Fixers was that the County include the stocking and staffing in the annual budget rather than grant funding so the organization could track data yearly. The PSC denied the request, leaving county residents to continue seeking services out of County. The County budget gives \$17K to a few rescue organizations for their in-house spay and neuter procedures.

Since December 2023, I have contacted Council Member Stewart’s office requesting a meeting with my County Council representative to discuss the lack of spay-neuter services. The Councilwoman’s office canceled an appointment, and two follow-up emails have gone unanswered.

Whether or not you’re an animal lover, unwanted animals affect every county resident. Please let our leaders know if you agree that the County should provide residents with vital spaying and neutering services as stated in the County Code, Section 5-403, Clinics to Alter Animals.

Council Member Stewart, Vice President





**9am-9pm
Mon-Sat**
**9am-7pm
Sunday**
301-493-6217
www.grosvenormarket.com

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CENTENNIAL CHEVY HOUSE TOUR SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

1 – 5 pm

We're looking for volunteers! If you're interested,
please contact Henri Keller,
hkeller4501@verizon.net.

For general information, contact
nancywalz@gmail.com.

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.

The tour is from 1 to 5 pm, followed by the Town Hall reception from 4 to 6 pm where there will be historical artifacts on display and 1920s era refreshments to enjoy. 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.

Tickets go on sale in early April, stay tuned.

Sponsored by the Garrett Park Archives & Historic Preservation Committees