

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 63

March 2016

No. 3



## Calendar

|                 |   |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Thurs., Feb. 18 | GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm  | Tues., Mar. 8   | Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm  |
| Sun., Feb. 21   | Art at Penn Place, "Make-Your-Own-Sundae" reception, 3–5 pm, for Youth Art Show (Feb. 14–27) (see p 6)                                    | Thurs., Mar. 10 | <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm   |
| Mon., Feb. 22   | Town Council work session on budget, 7:30 pm, Town Office   | Fri., Mar. 11   | Film Society, <i>Wages of Fear</i> , Town Hall, dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (p 4)  |
| Wed., Feb. 24   | Citizens Association, informational meeting on storm water management, 7:30 pm, Town Hall (see p 4)                                       | Sun., Mar. 13   | Daylight Savings time begins; reset clocks ahead  |
| Sun., Feb. 28   | Art at Penn Place: opening, fiber art by Donna Jacobs and fellow quilters (till March 19); reception "Meet the Artists," 3–5 pm (see p 6) | Mon., Mar. 14   | Town Council Mtg., Town Hall, 7:30 pm   |
| Tues., Mar. 1   | Deadline for submissions, Garrett Park Invitational Art Show (see p 6)  | Thurs., Mar. 17 | GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm  |
| Thurs., Mar. 3  | GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm  | Fri., Mar. 18   | Memorial celebration for Lillian Henley, Town Hall, 2 pm (p 3)  |
| Sat., Mar. 5    | GIVES collection, PO, 9 am–12 pm  | Sun., Mar. 20   | Art at Penn Place, opening, Garrett Park Invitational Show (till April 17): reception and award ceremony, 3 to 5 pm (see p 6) |
| Mon., Mar. 7    | Weekly yard waste collection begins   | Wed., Mar. 23   | Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 7 pm: Nominations for Town Council   |
|                 |   | Fri., Mar. 25   | Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> , Penn Place lobby  |
|                 |   | Sat., Mar. 26   | Voter registration for town election, 9 am–1 pm, PO lobby (p 3)   |
|                 |   | Thurs., Mar. 31 | GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm  |

## Decision on Sidewalk Project

It was a dark and stormy night, and the February Council meeting was consumed by the Great Sidewalk Debate of 2016. Because two prior meetings had been held on this topic, Mayor Benjamin stipulated that the Council wanted to hear views (mostly) from residents who had not offered comments at prior meetings. Eighteen residents rose to address the subject. Nine of those spoke in favor of the sidewalk proposal. Seven of those opposed the proposal to varying degrees. And two spoke to side issues. No one expressed objections to renovation of the Clermont/Montrose sidewalk.

In a nutshell, those who opposed the sidewalks proposal raised a variety of concerns, including the following:

- Uncertainty that the \$561,286 grant would be sufficient to cover all costs, including associated storm water management costs, and could leave the town exposed to an unknown financial liability.
- Safety alternatives to new sidewalk construction on Oxford Street and Kenilworth Avenue had not been undertaken—including improved signage, speed enforcement, and lowering the speed limits in town—and it has

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not been demonstrated that there is a current safety problem.

- The town “jumped” to get the sidewalk grant before it had thought through all the issues. The underlying data used to justify the grant were inaccurate.
- Most residents living on Oxford Street oppose a new sidewalk.
- The town should concentrate its efforts on improving existing sidewalks throughout town, not building new sidewalks.

Those who favored the sidewalks proposal indicated the following:

- The town should not wait for an accident to happen, especially where our children are concerned. It was imperative for the town to construct the proposed sidewalks now. Delay is intolerable.
- It has become more dangerous over time to walk on the streets of Garrett Park for many reasons: drivers using cell phones while driving; a large increase in children attending Garrett Park Elementary School; drivers not abiding by posted speed limits; and increased in-town traffic from delivery trucks, landscapers, repair trucks, restaurant patrons, and multi-driver families.
- Studies show that separation of vehicle traffic from pedestrian traffic improves safety.
- Several residents told of “near misses” while they walked on town streets.

Members of the Town Council then discussed the proposed resolution authorizing the project. Two of the key provisions of the resolution are as follows:

“...the Garrett Park Town Council reaffirms its decision to design and construct the sidewalk project and authorizes the Mayor and Town Manager to implement the project, to cause to be advertised and awarded contracts for its design and construction, and to obtain all reviews, permits, approvals, and concurrences by the federal, state, and country governments;” and

“...the cost of said project shall not exceed the \$561,286 available in the October 15, 2013 Safe Routes to Schools Memorandum of Understanding, except for the costs of Town staff and elected officials incurred in managing the project.”

Town Councilmembers proceeded to outline their positions on the resolution. Phil Schulp and Kacky Chantry indicated that they did not necessarily oppose new sidewalk construction *per se*, but, with the exception of work on Clermont/Montrose, they preferred to table the resolution until such time as the town conducted additional analysis and consultation with town residents. They especially wanted more clarity on the possible costs of the project and consideration of alternatives to new sidewalks. On the other hand, Councilmembers Hans Wegner, Tara Flynn, and Joanna Welch supported the resolution, citing their belief that sidewalks are the best way to improve pedestrian safety. Councilmembers Chantry and Schulp moved two amendments to the Resolution aimed at removing references to the Council having considered alternatives, as Councilmembers disagreed regarding the extent of such consideration. A third amendment was aimed at introducing more Council input or control at various stages of the remainder of the project. All three amendments were defeated on 3 to 2 votes. A vote was taken, and the resolution passed 3 to 2.

As residents filed out of Town Hall, the Council quickly discussed two additional items: the fact that, more than halfway through fiscal year 2016, the budget seems to be in good shape, and the fact that the town’s web site is still not working and the necessity to get it working as quickly as possible. (Note that the town still has a web page, but not currently a full site; see *Sweet and Sour*, p 5.)

Ken Schwartz



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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* 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.

**Citizens Association Officers:**  
 President: Sean Conlan  
 Vice-President: Michael Lutkenhouse  
 Treasurer: Bridget Silverman  
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**Editor:** Barbara Collier (Box 191)  
**Reporters:** Margaret Soltan (Box 518), Mary Moyer (Box 98)  
**Ads:** Mary Moyer (Box 98)  
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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by e-mail, mail, or hand to *Bugle* staff. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Town Manager Notes

*Snow removal.* The town crew worked particularly hard and long during the very large snow in February. In addition to thanking the crew for their work, I would like to thank the town residents for their patience during the snow. Our normal snow plowing process took much longer due to the sheer volume of snow. We appreciate your understanding and your help during this amazing storm!

We likely will have another snow during the coming weeks, so just a continued reminder that it's especially important to park off the streets when snow is expected. Please call the Town Office with any emergencies. If you need help shoveling snow, we do have a list of residents who are willing to help (see p 4). You may also check the Post Office bulletin board, or call the Town Office for names.

*Town budget.* The Council will be working on the FY 2017 budget (July 2016 through June 2017) over the coming weeks. The proposed budget will be discussed at a work session on Monday, February 22, at 7:30 pm in the Town Office at Penn Place, and then will be introduced at the March 14 Council meeting. The recommended budget will then be voted on at the regular Council meeting on April 11. Town residents are encouraged to attend the work session or to provide comments or suggestions regarding next fiscal year's budget by contacting the Mayor, a Councilmember, or the Town Manager.

*State tax form reminder.* Remember to write "Garrett Park" in the box labeled "City, Town or Taxing Area" when filling out your state income tax forms. If someone prepares your tax returns for you, *be sure to remind them* to put "Garrett Park" in that box. This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues the state distributes to the 23 counties and 157 incorporated cities and towns throughout Maryland. This revenue supports many of the services the town provides to residents.

*Large item pickup.* The next large item pickup is scheduled for Saturday, April 2. Remember to place your items curbside no later than Friday.

*Town elections 2016.* Election Day in Garrett Park will be Monday, May 2. Polls are open from 7 am to 7:30 pm in the public lobby of the Post Office at Penn Place. The terms of office for Mayor Peter Benjamin and Town Councilmembers Hans Wegner and Tara Flynn are up this year. The last day to register to vote in this election is Monday, April 4. Candidate nominations will take place during the Citizens Association meeting on Wednesday, March 23, with the Candidates Forum currently set for Wednesday, April 27. Additional nominations may be made by written petition signed by 10 registered voters and filed with the Town Office by 4 pm on Monday, April 11.

*Absentee ballots.* Note: All absentee ballots must be applied for in writing.

Applications for absentee ballots will be available from the Town Office until the close of business on Wednesday, April 27; absentee ballots can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to you, or you can pick yours up at the Town Office. After April 27, a voter or the voter's agent must obtain an absentee ballot application in person from the Town Office. All ballots must be received by the Judge of Elections by the close of the polls at 7:30 pm on May 2. Election results will be announced at a reception in the Town Hall, hopefully by 10 pm. The reception will start at 9:30 pm.

*Voter registration.* To be eligible to vote in a town election, you need to be registered with Montgomery County at your Garrett Park address, or on the list of qualified noncitizen Garrett Park residents. If you have not voted in a county/state/national election in the last five years, the Montgomery County Board of Elections will have struck your name from the active voters file. You will need to renew your registration with the Board. The Board of Elections' 24-hour Voter Information Line is 240-777-8683. You may also obtain forms needed to register at the Town Office during normal office hours or anytime in the Post Office lobby. Special registration hours will be held on Saturday, March 26, and Saturday, April 2, from 9 am to 1 pm in the Post Office lobby at Penn Place. Please call the Town Office with any questions regarding registration, qualification of voters, nominations, etc.

Gene Swearingen,  
managergene@garrettparkmd.gov,  
301-933-7488

## Memorial

A celebration of the life of longtime Garrett Park resident Lillian Henley will take place on Friday, March 18, at 2 pm at the Town Hall. All are invited.

### Services for Seniors

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Activities of Daily Living</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bathing</li><li>Lifting</li><li>Personal Care &amp; Hygiene</li><li>Dressing</li><li>Transferring</li><li>Hygiene</li></ul>                                   | <b>What Makes ElderCaring Different?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimum</li><li>All caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistants</li><li>The owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needs</li><li>All caregivers are fluent in English</li><li>Personal choice in selection of every caregiver</li><li>Licensed, Bonded, Insured</li><li>24 Hours Service – 7 Days a Week</li></ul> |
| <b>Support Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Companionship</li><li>Meal Preparation</li><li>Medication Reminder</li><li>Physical Therapy</li><li>Light Housekeeping</li><li>Transportation to Appointments</li></ul> |  |

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# Citizens Association Notes

*Next meeting: Storm water management.* Charles Dudley Warner once said, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." Over the last few years, we've experienced severe weather that has caused flooding and erosion in areas of town. The CA is hosting an informational meeting with representatives from Montgomery County to discuss storm water management in town. This marks the beginning of developing a town storm water management plan and an opportunity for attendees to influence how it might be created. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, at 7:30 pm, Town Hall.

*Save the dates.* Nominations for Town Council are currently scheduled to occur on Wednesday, March 23, at 7 pm in Town Hall. The CA is hoping to follow the nominations with a short presentation about runoff management on people's personal property (e.g., rain gardens) featuring an expert from Montgomery County. The Candidates Forum is currently scheduled for April 27. Please look out for signs in the Post Office and notices on the listserv as we firm up the details of these events.

*Future meetings.* Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Sean Conlan or send a note to Box 456.

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## Jobs List

A list of young people offering to do chores such as shoveling snow is maintained by the Town Office. If you would like to be included on the list, please contact Elizabeth Henley, 301-933-7488.

Please see the list in the printed *Bugle*. It is the *Bugle's* policy not to include names of minor children, private telephone numbers, or private e-mail addresses in the *e-Bugle*.

*Annual dues.* The Citizens Association 2016 annual dues are being collected: \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

*Garrett Park listserv.* To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at [groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join).

*Questions or comments for the Citizens Association?* If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Sean Conlan.

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## For the Thrill of It

On March 11, the Garrett Park Film Society presents *Wages of Fear* (1953, in French, PG-13) a thriller directed by the "French Hitchcock," Henri-Georges Clouzot, starring Yves Montand. Rotten Tomatoes rates *Wages of Fear* 100% fresh and describes it as "an existential suspense classic, ... blend[ing] non-stop suspense with biting satire; its influence is still being felt in today's thrillers." The critics agree, even in "this age of the ruthless, high tech thriller," it will keep you on the edge of your seat.

This is a French film, albeit set in Mexico. The choice of cuisine for dinner could go either way. The final menu will be posted on the GPFS poster in the Post Office lobby and on the Garrett Park Neighbors list the week before the film. Cost for dinner is usually \$10 per person, with dessert extra. Dinner is served at 7 pm. Soda, beer, and wine will be on offer at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5.

The film starts at 8 pm. Admission is free for GPFS members. Membership forms can be found in the Post Office lobby or will be at the door the night of the film. Nonmembers pay \$5 per person or \$10 per family at the door. Hope to see you there!



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## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ A correction to last month's *Bugle*: The new chair of the Land Use Committee (formerly the Setback Advisory Committee) is not George C. Martin, as reported in the Town Council notes in the last *Bugle*, but his son, George J. Martin.
- ♪ On a sadder note, we offer condolences to the whole Martin family on the tragic loss of son and brother Paul, who died suddenly on January 31 and leaves a young family. Services were held at Holy Cross on February 6.
- ♪ A reminder to everyone about the town's web site. Although the old site is no more, and the new site is not yet, the town does maintain a web presence at the old web site's address: [www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov). A single page provides calendar information and various links, including links to the electronic versions of the drawings for the sidewalk project.
- ♪ We were saddened to hear of the passing of Lillian Henley (see calendar and p 3). We hope to include an obituary in the next issue.

### Women's Club Events

Mark your 2016 calendars with these dates! Times will be confirmed as we get closer to the dates.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Sat., May 14    | Progressive Dinner (dine around)              |
| Sat., May 21    | Town yard sale (in front of residents' homes) |
| Sun., May 22    | Musical for Gieser Scholarship Fund           |
| Sat., Sept. 24  | Porches & Patios (dine around)                |
| Sat., Oct. 15   | Attic in the Street                           |
| Sat., Dec. 10   | Santa comes to town!                          |
| Week of Dec. 18 | Holiday Decorating Contest judging begins!    |

Questions? Please contact Women's Club President Lillian DelPriore.

### Greening Report

Thanks go to Patricia Bulhack, who is sponsoring this month's green banner to celebrate her 50 years in Garrett Park, as of August. Thanks so much! Here's hoping for many more years in our lovely town.

If anyone wants to sponsor the green for the rest of 2016, we'd be most grateful. The greening fund is almost dry. If you're interested, please make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to the Citizens Association at Box 456. If you are sponsoring a banner in honor of something or someone in particular, please enclose a note to that effect, and please also send the information to editor Barbara Collier by e-mail (but phone, USPS, or a note on the door would also work... check your directory for details!). Many thanks.

### Townwide Yard Sale May 21

Have fun, get rid of clutter, and make some money! Be part of the next townwide yard sale on Saturday, May 21, from 9 am to 2 pm.

To participate, notify Caroline Turner (Box 173) so that she can include your location on the sale map, and also publicize any special items/categories that you might be selling. You also need to pay her a fee of \$5 to help cover the cost of ads and signs. Your tasks:

- Start collecting items to sell.
- Set up your own independent sale anywhere on your property on May 21.
- Highlight your location (balloons, etc.).
- Provide your own directional signs on your street/intersection.
- Arrange to dispose of your own leftovers.

For its part, the Women's Club will arrange for or provide

- on-line ads in the *Washington Post*,

- an ad on craigslist,
- directional signs on Strathmore,
- internal GP signs to the Post Office, and
- maps both inside the Post Office and handed out curbside.

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David.Altar1@gmail.com

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## Art at Penn Place

This year, we are so excited to be displaying the 2016 Youth Art Show at the Penn Place Gallery! From February 14 to 27, the work of 20 young and very creative artists, ages 6 to 16, will be on display in the gallery. This year, we held an art workshop where participants created unique and whimsical story boxes to describe something special in their lives. They then met individually with Garrett Park artist Suzi Gifford to add the final touches to their creations. With no rules or boundaries, and an endless display of art supplies, we were amazed by the creative way these young artists turned plain boxes into magical pieces of art! You will not want to miss this unique art show, and we hope you will join us for a "Make-Your-Own-Sundae" reception on February 21 from 3 to 5 pm at the gallery.

Following the youth display, we are thrilled to present another very unusual show! From February 28 to March 19, Garrett Park artist Donna Jacobs and members of her quilting guild will display their beautiful fiber art at the gallery. The title of the show is "Quilting Green: Traditions Grow in New Directions," and each piece will reflect the artist's interpretation of this theme. Starting with an idea, color palette, textures, and patterns, the artists have created images out of fabrics and threads, enhanced with unique quilting designs. Be sure to join us at the gallery for a "Meet the Artists" reception on February 28 from 3 to 5 pm.

The very popular annual Penn Place Gallery Juried Invitational Show is fast approaching! This annual juried group exhibit is held for artists who do not live in Garrett Park, but who do live in Montgomery County. The Invitational will be on display from March 20 to April 17, and will be celebrated with a reception and award ceremony catered by Black Market Bistro on March 20 from 3 to 5 pm.

Artists who wish to submit work for consideration must be 18 and older, working in acrylics,

oils, pastels, photographs, watercolors, collage, fiber, or other wall-hung art. Each artist must submit a .jpeg or digital print of their entry piece to Vickie Baily (see your directory for the e-mail address) by March 1, 2016. Work submitted must be new to the gallery, and pieces larger than 36 by 48 will be considered on a space-available basis. A fee of \$25 will apply to accepted work only.

Art exhibited in the Invitational Show will be chosen by Juror Michael Shibley, who will also select 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The Best-in-Show artist will be awarded a solo show at the Penn Place Gallery in 2017.

Artists interested in participating should e-mail Vickie Baily no later than March 1.

## Musicale Coming Up!

This year the 20th Garrett Park Musicale will be held on May 22 at 4 pm at the Town Hall. This program for all music lovers benefits the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship, now part of the Garrett Park Community Fund. The event has featured jazz, pop, classical, Broadway, folk, rock, Latin, and indigenous music. For the past 19 years, the scholarship has supported a year of private music lessons for a budding musician at Garrett Park Elementary School.

Do you like to sing? Join the Town Singers. We have a lot of fun! Do you or your child play an instrument and would like to have a kind and enthusiastic audience? Contact Sue Petito or Meme Lincoln (see your directory).

Last, a big thank you to the GP Jams musicians for passing on \$5 donations at their events to support the scholarship. This talented local group gets together regularly to practice and perform vocal and instrumental music at the Town Hall. Check the calendar for dates of their regular jam sessions and occasional coffee houses.

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## Letter from the Mayor

When the snow storm over the weekend of January 23 and 24 dumped 24 inches of snow on our town, we learned again the value of having dedicated town employees to do whatever is necessary to make the town passable. There was so much snow that the plows could go only a few yards before collecting such a large amount of snow that it had to be deposited at the side of the road. There were so few places to put the snow that our intrepid team had to use the front loader to move snow to better places, creating high mounds. By Sunday evening, the streets had at least one narrow pass, and by Monday evening most had been widened. There was so much snow that our driveways had large walls in front of them each time a plow went by, and the staff tried valiantly to minimize that effect, but many of us had to dig out more than once.

The Montgomery County arterials were not cleared until early Monday, after which the county started on residential streets. Our guys had pretty much cleared the town by then. Following the snow there was rain, and before that came our maintenance staff had cleared all the storm drains from under the mountains of stored snow. Our great appreciation and deepest thanks go to Butch and Frank, assisted at times by J.C. Walter and David Gregg, who worked long hours, went hunting for gas stations that were open in order to keep the trucks and front loader running, and lost many hours of sleep trying to provide our citizens with mobility. They succeeded admirably.

Many of you attended the Town Council meeting on February 8 when the Council considered whether or not to proceed with the sidewalks project. I am pleased to report that the Council reaffirmed its decision to design and construct the sidewalks project with segments on Montrose, Clermont, Oxford, and Kenilworth. We will now

move toward obtaining the necessary reviews, permits, approvals, and concurrences required by federal, state, and county governments.

This decision process has been an example of democracy in action, with many of those in favor of the project and those opposed attending and participating in one or more of our three hearings held just before the decision, sending e-mails, signing petitions, talking to neighbors, and vigorously pursuing their cause. I believe that each of us has taken a principled position based upon our sincere belief of what is best for our town. The differences have been strong and the process contentious, but I hope that we will respect each individual who participated regardless of whether we agree or disagree. In this town we believe deeply in our issues and express ourselves freely. We had fierce battles about the historic renovation of Penn Place and the reconstruction of Strathmore, often with the very same arguments that were central to the sidewalks controversy, but most of us now value the new building and the safer road with better lighting and sidewalks. I strongly believe that the same will be true about these sidewalks.

George Bernard Shaw said, "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." We may not want progress or change because change is difficult, but it is inevitable. As I have said before, our challenge is to shape that change in ways that preserve the values which we hold most dear and which make this a special place to live.

Thank you for participating in the process. Thank you for making Garrett Park an activist and caring community that takes its governmental decision-making process seriously.

Peter Benjamin