

# Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 65 October 2018 No. 8

Calendar			
Sat., Sept 29	Farmers Market, Penn Place, 9 AM – 1 PM	Sun., Oct 7	Art at Penn Place, Nancy Walz, Artist's Reception, Penn Place Gallery, 3 – 5 PM
	GP Womens' Club Attic in the Street Sale, South Kenilworth Ave., 10 AM – 2 PM	Mon., Oct 8	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 PM
	GIVES Collection 10 AM – 2 PM at the Attic in the Street Sale	Tues., Oct 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 PM
Mon., Oct 1	Art at Penn Place showing the works of Nancy Walz until Oct, 27	Thurs., Oct 11	GP Pool Fall Membership Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 PM
Tues., Oct 2	Archives Committee Meeting, Archives, Penn Place, 7 PM	Sat., Oct 13	Farmers Market, Penn Place, 9 AM – 1 PM
Thurs., Oct 4	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee Meeting, Town Office, Penn Place, 10 AM	Tues., Oct 16	Arboretum Committee Meeting, Town Office, Penn Place, 7 PM
	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, Town Office, Penn Place, 7:30 PM	Thurs., Oct 18	GPJAMS, Town Hall, 8 PM
Sat., Oct 6	Large Item Pickup	Fri., Oct 19	Pick up your Bugle at PO Lobby!
	Farmers Market, Penn Place. 9 AM – 1 PM		
	Town Hall Open House, Town Hall, 9 AM – 12 PM		Film Society, Town Hall, 7 PM Dinner, 8 PM Film, <i>No</i>
	GIVES Collection, PO Lobby, 9 AM – 12 PM	Sat., Oct 20	Farmers Market, Penn Place, 9 AM - 1 PM
	Porches and Patios, all around town, 6 PM	Sat., Oct 27	Spooky Woods, dusk

# **Town Council Meeting Notes**

Summer heat and the *sturm und drang* of the four Town Council meetings in July and August are behind us. So how would the September meeting proceed? Your reporter arrived at the meeting on a humid, wet evening to discover the answer.

The first item of business at these meetings is approval of the minutes from the previous one, a

process which is usually a routine vote, with, perhaps, some minor changes. Not this time. In this

case, the approval involved draft minutes for all four of the summer meetings. The draft minutes had been circulated a few days earlier among council members for editing. Despite the chance to offer changes and corrections, several council members objected to the drafts presented at the meeting.

What was this all about? Boiling this issue down to its fundamentals, the objection seemed to be

that the draft minutes reflected a lot of narrative details and left out the positions of council members. Rather than making the minutes longer by including more detail, councilmembers Welch and McClintock recommended that minutes be kept simple and focused on explaining the issue, the action proposed, and the outcome. The discussion brought up whether or not the Mayor's last name should be used in the minutes, given it is an official document, on which point the Mayor indicated a strong preference to use her first name. Additionally, former town clerk Glenda Ingham noted a previous time when wordy minutes were pared down. In the end, the Council did not approve the minutes, so they will have to be rewritten and re-submitted in October. Stay tuned.

Next up on the agenda was a proposed ordinance to shift funds within the town's budget in order to show that sufficient funds are available to meet the latest cost estimate of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) sidewalk project. Recall that this project is being funded by the Federal Government—though with money disbursed through the Maryland State Highway Agency (SHA). The original funds from SHA amounted to \$438,000. As time passed and as the sidewalk plan was fleshed out, this amount proved to be inadequate, so the town requested and has been awarded an additional \$350,000. The latest cost estimate (developed over the summer) indicates that this combined amount may still be inadequate. If so, SHA has indicated that it can probably help the town by covering 80 percent of the shortfall, while the town pays 20 percent. Based on the latest cost estimate, the shortfall is \$110,000. Therefore, the town would need to pay \$22,000 and SHA would pay \$88,000.

Got all that? The purpose of the proposed ordinance, therefore, was to put \$22,000 (plus an additional \$18,000 in contingency funds just in case the final numbers come in higher than expected) into the budget line for the SRTS in the town's capital budget. These amounts would not be taken by reducing other town expenditures, but from the budget surplus carried over from the previous fiscal year. The action requested in September was to introduce this ordinance to be voted upon in October (or later), as is required by the town charter.

This topic generated a long discussion, that at times got into arcane legal and accounting topics. The issue was whether this action is really needed now. That is, the cost estimate is just an estimate. Within a few more months, the town will be able to put the project out for bids which may be higher or lower than the cost estimate. So, as several council members asked, why shift the money in the budget now, rather than waiting until we know exactly what the actual cost will be? As proposed, the shift in funds will be taking place twice—now, and yet again when the bid numbers come in. Councilmember Wegner was skeptical that SHA requires us to do this at the present time and asked for a written statement from SHA on this point, while the Mayor argued otherwise, citing support from discussions with the Town lawyer. But at the end of this long discussion, the Council agreed that introducing this legislation was an appropriate measure and voted to do so unanimously.

The second action item of the evening was also budgetary, putting more money into the account for the arboretum project. Readers will recall that over the summer the Arboretum Committee worked on picking a firm to inventory all trees on town property and to develop a draft plan for their management. As explained by Councilmember McClintock, a firm, Natural Resources Design, Inc. (NRD) has now been hired. NRD will be doing the inventory work this fall (so expect to see some folks walking around town). However, the bid was higher than the funds put into the capital budget for this project (\$48,357, rather than the budgeted \$35,000). The additional funds (rounding the amount up to \$50,000) will come from the capital budget contingency fund. The resolution to do this passed unanimously.

The final action item for the evening was a quick, unanimous vote to add Dave Almey to the Archives Committee. Thank you, Dave, for volunteering.

The meeting then moved on to discussion items. On SRTS, Mayor Kacky went through the status of the Federal Highway "106" review (which is about historic preservation aspects of the project). The town had assumed in the early spring that this was settled, when it received a "final" letter of approval. But it turned out the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had forgotten to carry out a 30-day comment period before issuing the letter. So, the town is now waiting for the feds to finish compiling comments that may require a response by the town prior to issuing the "final" letter.

Other discussion items included Councilmember Paczkowski's presentation of revised plans for the October 6 meeting to discuss renovation of the town hall (scheduled for 10 a.m.-12 noon, now as a general meeting rather than including breakout groups). On the topic of the unpredictable periodic malfunctioning of the blinking light at the Strathmore/Keswick intersection, Councilmember Wegner noted he has talked with county officials (responsible for traffic lights even though the road is owned by the state). They briefly tested the light and saw no problem, so resolution will require more discussion with them. On the search for a new town manager, Councilmembers Schulp and Welch explained that the process is moving forward, and interviews by the Council will occur at the end of October, so the new person will be selected by the beginning of November. Councilmember Welch noted that the play equipment project at Wells Park is almost finished (mulch and an asphalt path from the street being the remaining bits to be done.)

Next, Town Manager Swearingen made his monthly report. On finances, both revenues and expenditures are in line with expectations.

The final part of this report consists of residents' presentations. During the August meeting, there were two presentations- the first was a request from Andrew Lyon that the "dog park" next to the pool be returned to its original use as a tennis court. Town Manager Swearingen subsequently met with him and suggested that if he wanted to pursue the issue, he would need to find "like-minded" residents. The other was a request from Ms. Chau that the town revisit the issue of Garrett Park opting out of regular

police patrol. Councilmember Schulp agreed to investigate this further by revisiting the ordinances (see Ms. Chau's letter to the editor in this issue of the *Bugle* on this topic).

At the September meeting there were two more presentations. The first was a warning about back to school night at GPES, which will result in lots of cars parked in town (happening before the *Bugle* goes to press). The second was an announcement by Eileen Kelly (11002 Kenilworth) that the very large Japanese Zelkova tree in her backyard has now been certified as the largest one in the country. So, we end on that happy note. Congratulations Eileen!

Ed Lincoln, Bugle Reporter

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#### **Citizens Association Officers**

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\*Editor and staff reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned <u>Letters to the Editor</u> will not be printed.

# **Town Manager's Notes**

Summer Update. We hope everyone had a good summer! Just to catch you up on a few items: The Town completed repairs to the walkway at the end of Rokeby; we are still working on a more comprehensive solution to the storm water issues in that area. We have been very busy pruning and removing diseased or dead trees throughout the summer and will continue this work during fall. The Town purchased a much-needed new chipper which we will acquire during the week of September 17. This replaces our current chipper, which is old and has been in constant repair. The renovations at Wells Park are ongoing and should be completed in October.

Leaf Removal. Leaf raking season is near! Bethke Landscaping will begin work in mid-October. During leaf removal season, each street will be cleared once every week as early in the week as possible (rain will delay collections). Leaves should be placed in rows along the street side of the curb. Please remove sticks, rocks, trash, and other debris that could damage the machinery. Shredded leaves or grass clippings should instead be bagged and put out for the regular yard waste collection on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation. As you drive through town, please be mindful of children who may be playing in

the leaf piles; however, for safety, parents please discourage this!

Arboretum. After an extensive bidding process, the Town selected Natural Resources Design, Inc. to develop a comprehensive Arboretum Plan. Part of their initial work will be an update of our tree database. You may see representatives from NRD in town over the next few weeks gathering information on our Town trees.

Leaf Raking & Yard Work Assistance. Any young people in Town who would like to offer their services to help residents with fall yard work may contact Elizabeth Henley at the Town Office to add their name to our list.

As always, please feel free to call the Town office at 301/933-7488 with any questions or concerns.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

#### **Citizens Association Notes**

Every few years, we like to take a moment to share with you what the Citizens Association does. The two most prominent things we do are: publish The Garrett Bugle and "throw parties" throughout the year. Our most visible events are the Town Dinner, Wine Tasting, July 4th BBQ/Parade, and Spooky Woods. Our board members are elected annually by the citizens of Garrett Park. We also host and moderate the town's Candidate forum each election cycle. Anyone in town can suggest meeting ideas, send us an article for inclusion in the *Bugle*, or be elected to the CA board. Financially, we are able to run the Bugle and our annual events because of the annual dues, support from our wonderful advertisers in the *Bugle*, and food sales at the July 4<sup>th</sup> BBQ. The only thing we take more seriously than throwing a good party is our obligation to serve all of citizens of Garrett Park and we sincerely hope to maintain that standard every year. Most importantly, we are an organization independent from the town government and we strive to preserve our non-partisan position.

Sincerely,

The Garrett Park Citizens Association Board

Spooky Woods: The Garrett Park Citizens Association will host its Annual Spooky Woods event on Saturday, October 27! This has been one of the coolest events that Garrett Park has hosted in the past and this year will be no exception! Keep an eye out on the list serv and our Facebook page for more details Would you like to help? Got a terrific idea for a station? Let us know (sconlan@protonmail.com, darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com)!

To help kick off Spooky Woods, the Garrett Park Parents list serv will be hosting its third (annual) Garrett Park Halloween costume parade. And as always, we will also have pumpkin carving that weekend. Please contact Lesley Maloney (lesleymaloney@gmail.com) if are able help out.

**Save the Date:** The 2019 Town Dinner will be on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Keep an eye on the *Bugle* and

list serv for details and next year's theme!

#### **Town Hall Renovations**

Open House | Charette for Rehabilitation Planning of Garrett Park Town Hall Saturday October 6, 2018 10am-12noon (at Town Hall).

Discussion will include:

- History of the building, site and how its setting evolved over time.
- Present conditions and use of the building and gardens.
- Brainstorming about future use and potential for the town's asset.
- Ways to rehabilitate the building while respecting its historic fabric.

Stephen Paczkowski, Town Council Co-chair, Historic Preservation Committee

# Porches and Patios! Saturday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Join your neighbors for the 8th Annual "Porches and Patios" event – "heavy" hors d'oeuvres and desserts only. Registration – check your email or pick a registration form up at the Post Office and complete your form TODAY! Mail your forms to PO Box 494 or drop them off at Lillian's Home 4709 Argyle or email them to lillian@delpriore.com.

Questions? Interested in Volunteering? Just want to say hello?

Call or email Lillian • 240-994-3631 • lillian@delpriore.com

#### From the Archives

As you walk past the train station think what you might have encountered on the morning of May 20, 1895. It seems that a young resident of Washington, D.C. along with some friends hopped aboard the circus train as it left D.C. They intended to ride some distance and get off. At the Garrett Park Station, they were discovered, stones were thrown and somehow one young man, Charles Leer was shot and abandoned by his companions. Lying along the tracks he was found at eight the next morning by passing train employees. They telegraphed Baltimore and D.C. for help. Mr. Leer was shot in the mouth, lost a tooth and seemed to be well enough to try to escape when he saw the police. He was taken to D.C. on the 8:30 AM train. This report came from the Evening Star of May 20, 1895.

Submitted by Marian Green

# July 4th Softball Game

There was a fantastic turnout for the traditional July 4th softball game held at the school field. The Town of Garrett Park (GP) prevailed 21-10 over Garrett Park Estates.

The Estates got off to a roaring start in the first couple of innings before the tide turned on a controversial call, after which GP rallied and never looked back. With the Townies struggling, down 0-6, Steve Welker was called out at 1st on a tag up after a fly out. He was incensed that the 1st baseman didn't own up to the fact that he had no feet on the base. A debate ensued but umpires Dave Almy and Michael Spekter could not reverse a call on something they couldn't see from a distance in the ankle high weeds that cover that field.

After that hard luck call, the Townies got ready for the fight, like porcupines raising their quills. GP scored 20 unanswered runs and put the game out of reach. Just as the Town team got things going scoring runs, with solid hits by Darren Welch, a homer across the whole playground by Lawrence Scheinert and a few more upper deck (off the asphalt) dingers by John Martin and Stephen Paczkowski, the GP defense went into shut down mode.

Bob Ratcliffe pitched a great game. Rob Liebreich had solid hits and his son JoJo made the outfield look easy. George Martin Sr, Eileen (Martin) Wilkinson and Michael Wilkinson solidified the whole right side of the field for GP and had timely hits. Great game by the Town team!

Stephen Paczkowski

# Garrett Park Massage

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# **GIVES Soup Supper**

**Save the Date:** Sun, Nov 4, 5 to 7 pm

Throughout 2018, we hope you've noticed GIVES volunteers collecting monetary donations helping to support those less fortunate among us at GP Post Office and Farmer's Market.

Everyone is invited to celebrate all the good work being done by volunteers and contributors at the GIVES potluck Soup Supper at GP Town Hall on Sun, Nov 4, from 5 to 7 pm. This is always a really fun evening featuring delicious homemade soups and breads from Garrett Park kitchens.

This year's speakers will include the Executive Director from THRIVE DC and STEPPING STONES SHELTER, the two nonprofits that GIVES supports with the funds we collect so they can

continue to serve our neediest by providing food, shelter and job training skills.

Mark your calendar now. Start thinking about your favorite recipes! For more info about GIVES: http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/organizations/gives

#### **Arboretum Committee Notes**

After an open bidding process, the Town Council, upon the recommendation of the Arboretum Committee, awarded a contract for development of a Garrett Park Tree Plan to Natural Resources Design (NRD), a local company whose experience and expertise is exceptional. NRD will perform a detailed inventory of all town trees, which includes trees on the town right of way and trees in common areas. This inventory is a critical and important part of the Tree Plan; it will include a health and risk assessment of each tree.

So, if you see individuals walking around town in construction vests with tablets, notebooks or cameras looking at trees, please don't be alarmed. Once we have a complete inventory of the town's trees we will be able to begin the next phase of the project, which will help us to plan, manage and appreciate our beautiful Arboretum.

Would you like to know more about the Arboretum? Come to the Town Tree Walk on **Sunday, November 4** and hear from the town's consulting arborist as we enjoy the fall color on a short walk through town.

Michael Spekter, Chair, Arboretum Committee

### **Bugle Notes - Sweet and Sour**

☐ Cloudy and misty during the last pool weekend of the year, perfect conditions to get in one last volleyball game.



Submitted by Prakash Rath



# Yoga for All Levels

Tuesdays, 6:15–7:30 pm, 8–9 pm Garrett Park Town Hall

Classes include stretching, alignment, restorative and breathing work, meditation, and relaxation.

"Tuesday night's class showed me how out of shape my core is! Thank you for bringing your experience and knowledge into the practice... not only is my mind refreshed, but my body says thank you for the stretching and awareness"

Questions? Email Liz at gayatrimantra.liz@gmail.com Visit lilylotusyoga.com





# Letter to the Editor

As a member of Lincoln Park Historical Foundation in Rockville (LPHF), where years ago I used to participate in an NAACP "Reducing the Gap" Committee, I attended, on Saturday, September 15, 2018, a County and State Candidates Forum organized by LPHF at the Calvary Baptist Church in Rockville: "Back to Basics: A New Direction -- Lift Every Voice and Vote Community Forum". Montgomery County Chief of Police J. Thomas Manger led off the Forum with his presentation of "Community Concerns."

At the end of Chief Manger's presentation, during the Chief's off-line discussions with Forum attendees, as I started reminding the Chief about the daylight robbery of a few years ago that my husband and I had encountered at our home front door by two thugs, he quickly responded that he well remembered that incident.

I then asked the Chief which assistant of his, whom I had met during a previous LPHF Forum, and to whom I had promised I would send my Town of Garrett Park's particular Code of Ordinances that, during my own service on GP Town Council, had opted out of the Montgomery County Police Department's total police coverage (however, which I myself had failed to send). I briefly explained to the Chief I had advised that Assistant Chief of Police about my strong interest, especially in my capacity as one of the several aging town residents, in having regular police scout cars traveling in our town to discourage potential criminals.

Chief Manger quickly, and gently, asked me who Garrett Park's mayor is. I responded that we have a new mayor, Kacky Chantry. Chief Manger said, "Please tell Mayor Chantry I look forward to meeting with her personally, and soon."

Thank you, dear Bugle Editor, and warm regards.

Nguyen Minh CHAU ("Chau") 4600 Oxford Street 301-933-6860

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### **Obituary**

#### Jay Martin Levy

On August 9, 2018, Jay Martin Levy, a resident of Garrett Park for over 35 years, died after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Born on March 25th, 1947 in Takoma Park, MD, Jay was an accomplished musician and owner of Sam's Pawnbrokers in Washington, DC. He is survived by his wife, Valerie, his son, Sam Asher Levy, and his daughter, Ruth Oriana Levy, and many loving relatives and friends.

A celebration of life for Jay will take place on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at 2 PM at the beloved Garrett Park Town Hall.

# **Letter from the Mayor**

As some of you may know, I like to run. It's been my choice of exercise (when the knees are working) for the past 48 years. We know it's good for the heart and the mind. For me, it also provides private time for contemplation and reflection.

During my runs these past few days, I've thought a lot about what our Town staff, Council members and I have accomplished over the summer. We completed the refinishing of all the teak benches in Town; re-initiated tree pruning along our streets to protect us from falling branches; worked with County officials to repair the Rokeby footpath (which the County finished in one week); completed some much-needed maintenance repairs of Penn Place; and finally bought a new chipper to replace the old one that had spent more time in the repair shop than in our Town. The new wood chipper has twice as much horse power and can take in larger pieces of wood compared to the old one.

Our Council passed an ordinance to regulate parking around Town; and the County has agreed to adjudicate as necessary. To help us get started, I am forming a Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee with resident volunteers, and with Councilmember Phil Schulp as the liaison. The Committee's charge is to develop procedures to help me and the Town Manager monitor parking and evaluate the overall merits of this new enforcement effort. If you're interested in helping, please call the Town Office. We welcome your involvement.

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project is moving forward without any changes. The bid package has been officially submitted to the State Highway Administration (SHA) for technical review. SHA has indicated their review will take at least six weeks. In the meantime, because the most recent cost estimates of the project have increased, our Council has approved the first step in a two-step process to appropriate additional funds. These funds will come from new SHA grants as well as Town funds. While we wait to hear about the technical review, we are also waiting to hear from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding their final determination of the Section 106 process under the National Historic Preservation Act. FHWA has indicated they are almost finished reviewing comments submitted by the Town's consulting parties. This is an important milestone since we are not allowed to solicit bids for the SRTS project until FHWA issues a final determination.

One last thing to share: I had the opportunity to visit an exhibit at the World Bank. The exhibit was "Quilts of the African Experience" in recognition of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent. Not only did the exhibit present an

extraordinary collection of cultural experiences woven into art form but it also conveyed, through the words of the artists, powerful and poignant messages of grace and hope, experienced whether under stress, in despair or at our most positive life moment. This will certainly be something I will contemplate and reflect on during my runs! In the meantime, I wish you grace and hope in your daily life.

**Kacky Chantry** 



