

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

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No. 3

Calendar

Thurs Feb 28	Town Council 2020 Budget Meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall	Tues, Mar 12	Lunch Bunch, 12:30 pm, Town Hall
Sat, Mar 2	Farmers Market, 10 am – 1 pm, Penn Place, GIVES Collection P.O. Lobby 9 am – 12 pm	Fri, Mar 15	Film Society presents Maktub, Dinner at 7 pm, Film at 8, Town Hall
Sun, Mar 3	Art at Penn Place, Doug Mader, Meet the Artist Reception, 3 pm, Penn Place	Sat, Mar 16	Farmers Market, 10 am – 1 pm, Penn Place
Sat, Mar 9	Farmers Market, 10 am – 1 pm, Penn Place	Sat, Mar 23	Farmers Market, 10 am – 1 pm, Penn Place
Tues, Mar 5	Winter Yoga, 6:15 pm, Town Hall, Archives Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm, Penn Place	Wed, Mar 27	Citizens Association Meet and Greet Happy Hour, 6:00-7:30 pm, Town Hall and Candidate Nominations, 7:30 pm, Town Hall
Mon, Mar 11	Town Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Town Hall	Sat, Mar 30	Farmers Market, 10 am – 1pm, Penn Place

Town Council Meeting Notes

February 11, 2019. Drizzling cold rain falling. Temperature hovering just above freezing. The kind of night to curl up with a good book on the sofa in front of the fireplace. Instead, your reporter was settling onto a hard chair in the Town Hall. Looking around, it was clear most town residents had opted for staying comfy at home, with no more than five people in the audience. Oh well.

My mood improved, though, with the initial residents' presentation portion of the meeting. Young Finn Simons (son of councilmember Dan Simons) took the microphone along with his sidekick Eddy the Turtle (who was almost six feet tall in a fuzzy costume). Finn gave a short speech on behalf of Eddy (since, of course, turtles can't talk) and his own remarks. They emphasized the importance of eliminating plastic straws since they are known to end up in the ocean where they have killed turtles. Those interested in this presentation are encouraged to check the town website for the video of the Council meeting (it is eight minutes into the video).

Following that presentation, the Council moved on to dealing with a long list of five action items (i.e. ordinances or other proposals that require a formal vote of the Council). Typically, these can take a long

time, with extended discussion and airing of conflicting views. But several of these items were routine, somewhat technical budget matters. In addition, some had been introduced in January, meaning that they had already been discussed. The first issue was the prohibition of plastic straws ordinance that had been the subject of the presentation by Finn and Eddy the Turtle. The ordinance is actually a bit broader than just plastic straws, including plastic stirring sticks or "splash sticks." This ordinance had been introduced in January and it passed unanimously without further discussion or change.

The second issue was provision of additional funds (\$80,000) to meet increased costs for street repaving, using funds shifted from sidewalk and storm-drain line items in the budget. This, too, had been introduced in January and was passed unanimously after brief discussion.

The third item covered a shift of funds from the operating budget to the capital budget to reflect new money from the state for the Safe Routes to School project to covered estimated increase in costs. Also introduced in January, this measure passed with one dissenting vote (by councilmember Wegner who wondered if we needed to do this now rather than after bids have been solicited, to stop bidders from knowing how much extra money was available).

Continued next page

The fourth item concerned other mid-fiscal-year changes in the operating and capital budgets (a routine process halfway through each fiscal year). Most of the individual line-item changes were small, although the total added up to an increase in spending of \$139,782 (mainly reflecting more available revenue carried over from the previous fiscal year than had been expected when the budget was formulated last spring). After some discussion there were a couple further minor tweaks in funds penciled in, at which point the Council voted unanimously to introduce this ordinance, with the vote to adopt coming in March. For those interested in the intricacies of town budgeting, the proposed changes in spending should be posted on the town website by the time the Bugle is published. [Alert: editorial comment follows] In fact, your reporter urges you to look at these figures. Budgeting is just about the most important function of government (and at the federal level, we have just seen how contentious the process can be), so it is wise to take a look at what your government is proposing to do.

The final action item was the appointment of three new election judges. The slate of Louise Stomierowski, Benjamin Smith, and Jenny Krivanek was approved unanimously.

Next came new business, with only one item. The town's paid part-time professional archivist is leaving, to take a full-time position at Howard University. Council member Schulp indicated that he is working on getting out a job notice and referred back to the earlier discussion of mid-year changes in the budget, since it will be necessary to offer somewhat more salary to reflect additional hours we need a professional archivist to work (because the archivist now carries out some functions previously provided by the State of Maryland).

Updates on old town business included the usual reports. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project is waiting for Federal authorization before proceeding to bids, but the Mayor indicated that there is no news on when that will occur. Councilmember Schulp indicated that the parking committee is still in discussion with residents on Weymouth, some (but not all) of whom are bothered by Parkside residents parking overnight on their street. These discussions may (or may not) lead to placing street signs saying, "parking for Garrett Park residents and their guests only." Councilmember Paczkowski continues to work on putting together a short document summarizing the various ideas for town hall renovation that emerged from the public meeting several months ago. The mayor noted (in councilmember McClintock's absence) that the Arboretum Committee report resulting from the tree inventory is still in process. Councilmember Schulp also discussed the ongoing work to write an ordinance to regulate placement of cell-phone transmission equipment as 5G networks roll out in the very near future. What the town is permitted to do under Federal Communication Commission rules is limited, but we can do some things. Working with the town lawyer and town resident Ken Rehbehn (who is an expert in this area), a draft ordinance may be available by the next council meeting.

Finally, Town Manager Fox gave her monthly report, noting that revenues and expenditures are

running within expectations. On that happy note, the meeting adjourned, only 90 minutes after it began—the shortest meeting in over a year. Hooray!

The *Garrett Bugle* is a newsletter publication by the Citizens Association of Garrett Park and published 10 times a year. Publication is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Articles, ads and other content for the *Garrett Bugle* can be emailed to garrettbugle@gmail.com*

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*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

Town budget. The midyear adjustments to the FY19 budget and the development of the FY20 budget are in full-swing. The midyear adjustment to the FY19 budget was introduced at the February 11 Town Council meeting. At the March 11 Town Council meeting, the Council will consider the FY19 midyear adjustment for adoption, and the introduction of the FY20 budget.

Town elections 2019. Election Day in Garrett Park will be Monday, May 6. Polls are open from 7 am to 7:30 pm at Penn Place in the Post Office lobby. The terms of office for three Town Councilmembers are up this year. The candidate nomination meeting will be March 27 at 7:30 pm in Town Hall. The Candidates' Forum is scheduled for April 24. Both the nomination meeting and the forum are hosted by the Citizens Association. Please see the Town website for additional information.

State tax form reminder. Whether you fill out your own state income tax forms, or have someone prepare them for you, please be sure that "Garrett Park" is written in the box labeled "City, Town or Taxing Area." This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues distributed by the state. This revenue supports many of the services the Town provides to residents.

As always, please reach out to the Town office with any questions or concerns, 301-933-7488.

Andrea Fox, Town Manager

Citizens Association Notes

It's a new year and that means it's time to mark your calendars for upcoming Citizens Association events. For those who may be new to Town, the Citizens Association puts on a number of town parties and events including the July 4th BBQ and Spooky Woods. We also host town meetings inspired and organized by the citizens of Garrett Park.

For instance, in years past, we've held meetings on composting, fracking, storm water management, and MCPS school crowding. Some of our best meeting ideas come from you so please contact us with your ideas. This year also features the return of the Citizens Association Wine Tasting event (it's never too early to start "auditioning" bottles)!

Save the Date. 2019 Citizens Association Events

Month	Event (date)
Jan	Town Dinner (Sat, Jan 26)
Feb	Open*
Mar	Meet and Greet Happy Hour (Wed, Mar 27) Candidate Nominations (Wed, Mar 27)
Apr	Candidates' Forum (Wed, April 24)
May	Wine tasting (TBD)
June	Open*
July	4 th of July
Aug	Off
Sep	Open*
Oct	Spooky Woods (TBD – Tentatively Oct 26)
Nov	Open*
Dec	Open*

March Meet and Greet Happy Hour – Mar 27, 6:00-7:30 pm. Come by the town hall, have a drink, and chat with us! We'd love to meet you (a couple of us are new to the CA board this year) and hear about any ideas you have for meetings or events. We'll have some beverages and nibbles, but feel free to also bring your own refreshments. Right after the happy hour, we'll host the Candidate Nominations in the town hall.

Future Meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for an event or meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, let us know at the March Meet and Greet or please forward your thoughts to Alysia Bone (alysia.bone.gp@gmail.com). You can also send a note to Box 456.

Annual Dues. The Citizens Association 2019 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Dues help cover the costs of the events we hold over the course of the year. 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.

**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
SPRING FLING!**

Save the date:
Sunday, May 19

Greening of the Bugle

The Citizens Association acknowledges Sean and Lori Conlan for sponsoring the "greening of the Bugle" in recognition of the Team Maryland AAA Bantam hockey team's shut out in Las Vegas.

SAVE THE DATE!



MID-CENTURY MODERN HOUSE TOUR
OF ALEXANDER RICHTER-DESIGNED
HOMES

Saturday, May 4, 12-4 pm

Join the Historic Preservation Committee's self-guided tour of eight of the homes designed by Garrett Park's own Al Richter.

Starting right after WWII, Richter, an architect who taught at Howard University, bought 15 acres on the southeastern edge of town to fulfill his vision of a new kind of modern home design in challenging terrain. The neighborhood on Weymouth Street and parts of Oxford, Keswick, Shelley Court and Clermont Avenue would be affectionately dubbed "Richterville." Most of his homes remain basically intact after seven decades, with the streetscape of Weymouth still true to Richter's original intent.

Special guests include Richter's three sons and their families. Meet them at the wine and cheese reception following the tour. Tickets will go on sale in April.

Proceeds will benefit the Garrett Park Archives whose extensive trove of materials made it possible to research the history of the neighborhood.

Read the full story, "Ranches in Redsville," on the Town's website:
www.garrettparkmd.gov/home/showdocument?id=1165.

Call for Spring/Summer Jobs List:

Please submit your name, age, contact information and category (babysitting, mowing, yard work, pet sitting, dog walking, etc.) to Elizabeth in the Town Office by phone: 301-933-7488 or email: adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov

Save the Date!
Progressive Dinner 2019!
Saturday, April 27th

Dust off your cookbook, break out the Hoover,
be on the ready for the SOS call....
we need YOU!

Lillian Del Priore • 240-994-3631

Town Resident Contributions

What We're Cooking

Sweet Potato & Vegetable Tian

From *Simple Vegetarian Pleasures* by Jeanne Lemlin

The hardest part of this recipe is the cutting, but it is well worth it!

Ingredients:

- 1 red onion, cut vertically into sixths, sections separated
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into 1 ½ inch chunks
- 12 oz mushrooms, large ones quartered, medium sized ones halved
- 2 plum tomatoes, cored and cut into sixths
- 3 medium-large sweet potatoes/yams, peeled, quartered lengthwise and sliced ½ inch thick (we didn't peel)
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 2 tsp chopped fresh rosemary or ¾ tsp crumbled dried
- ¼ tsp salt
- Generous seasoning freshly ground black pepper
- 1/3 c olive oil

Topping:

- 3 slices homemade-type white bread
- 1 Tbs olive oil

Directions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 375. Combine all veggies, garlic, rosemary in a large mixing bowl. Sprinkle on salt, pepper, and 1/3 c olive oil. Toss to coat thoroughly. (May prepare up to this point 4 hours in advance.)
- 2) Drop veggie mix into a shallow 2 ½ qt ovenproof casserole and press down evenly. Bake 45 minutes.
- 3) To make topping, break up bread and make course crumbs in a food processor. Scrape them into a small bowl and drizzle on 1 Tbs of olive oil. Use your fingers to rub the oil evenly into the crumbs.
- 4) Remove the veggie mix from the oven (after 45 minutes of cooking) and sprinkle bread crumbs over the top. Return dish to oven and bake 15 more minutes, or until the veggies are very tender.
- 5) Let sit 10 minutes before serving.

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Letter from the Mayor

Lots of News and Changing Dates...

First, let me apologize for the confusion around the trash and recycle services this past President's Day and the following Thursday. We followed up with our contractor and the County's waste management department about our expectations. Aside from learning that the waste management and recycle facilities now operate on President's Day, we also were told our contractor had only one truck on Thursday. We are now confirming the list of closures and updating our website for greater accuracy. The Town pays for these contracted services, so it is incumbent upon us to ensure that we get what we pay for. We promise to do better and to prevent this from happening again.

This past week, I attended the annual meeting of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League. During this meeting, the County's Department of Finance presented an update on economic indicators and revenue relevant to the County. This included both retrospective and prospective reviews. Below are a few take-aways from this presentation, which we will consider during our fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget work session (rescheduled for February 28):

- Montgomery County's Charter limits the growth in property tax revenues to the annual rate of inflation. In 2018, inflation in the Washington DC metro area increased 2.04% over the prior year. This is the largest percent increase since 2012. Across the prior 5 years, the percent changes only ranged between 0.4% and 1.5%.
- FY19 County revised revenues are above their earlier projections. FY20 County projections for income and property tax revenues were reduced from previous estimates due to estimated lower capital gains, real property taxable assessments and an increase in home credits. The County still maintains that their revised forecast for both FY19 and FY20 is "in line, slightly positive" with their previous forecast.

- However, risks remain for projected County income and property tax revenues because of the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act and the 2015 Supreme Court decision on the Wynne Case. The latter portends significantly lower income tax revenues for the County beginning in FY21 due to the sizeable refunds and interest owed by the County to certain residents.

Dates for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) sidewalk project have been refined:

- Early March to receive federal authorization to solicit bids.
- Late March to open sealed bids.
- April to finish review of bid proposals and select lowest most responsive, responsible bidder.
- May to receive a notice from MDOT SHA to proceed with construction.

Also this spring we have street repaving and a Town election.

The Town is soliciting sealed bids for repaving some of our streets. These include Clermont, from Oxford to the dead end of Clermont; Kenilworth, from Strathmore to Oxford; and possibly sections of Kenilworth and Rokeby on the North and Northeast end of Town (depending on price). We anticipate making the award in March with work beginning as early as April or May. We will provide more information once we make the award. The Town election is May 6. At the February Town Council, I appointed with Council approval three election judges: Louise Stomierowski, Jenny Krivanek, and Ben Smith. I am grateful to these three as well as to the other residents who volunteered. Election plans are underway. Three council seats are up for consideration. The Citizens' Association has graciously offered to host both the Candidates Nominations Meeting on March 27th and the Candidates Forum on April 24. More details will be forthcoming! –It's going to be a busy spring!

Mayor Kacky