

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 63

May 2016

No. 5



## Calendar

Fri., Apr. 22	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby	Thurs., May 19	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Wed., Apr. 27	Citizens Association meeting, Candidates' Forum, Town Hall, 7:30 pm	Fri., May 20	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place lobby
Mon., May 2	Voting for town election, Post Office lobby, 7 am–7:30 pm (see candidates' statements, pp 7–11); swearing-in party, Town Hall, 9:30 pm, results around 10 pm (probably)	Sat., May 21	GIVES, Farmer's Market, 9 am–12 pm; Townwide Yard Sale, 9 am–2 pm, around town (see p 5); Progressive Dinner, evening (see p 6)
Thurs., May 5	Neighbors Helping Neighbors meeting, Town Office, 10 am (see p 4); GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun., May 22	Spring Arboretum Walk, 1–3 pm (see p 3); Annual Musicale, Town Hall, 4 pm (see p 2)
Sat., May 7	GIVES, PO lobby, 9 am–12 pm	Mon., May 23	New exhibit, Penn Place Gallery, Martha Seigel paintings, till June 18 (see p 6)
Mon., May 9	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Tues., May 24	Arboretum Committee meeting, Town Office, 7:30 pm
Tues., May 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm	Sun., May 29	Art at Penn Place, Meet-the-Artist reception, Martha Seigel, Penn Place Gallery, 3–5 pm (see p 6)
Thurs., May 12	<i>Bugle</i> deadline	Mon., May 30	Memorial Day; <i>no trash collection</i>
Sun., May 15	Garrett Park Film Society lecture, <i>Hollywood on the Potomac</i> , Town Hall, 3 pm (see p 2)		

## Tara: Gone With the Wind

On a spectacular early evening in the spring—blooms, mild weather—the Town Council met to determine our fate.

After approving the minutes, the Mayor reminded us that we have closed nominations for various town offices. The candidates and their statements appear in this issue of the *Bugle* (pp 7–11).

Jack Mandel now rose to alert the town to perilous conditions on the pathway between the end of Rokeby and the beginning of Garrett Park Estates. As he distributed several recent photographs to the Council, Jack noted that the path had become “remarkably dangerous in the past year.” The sidewalk is badly broken up. It is a big sewer entrance. One can witness “kids trying to avoid that.” Jack asks that “the Council consider

doing something about this pretty quickly. Bikers come down fast and they will hurt themselves. In the winter, it's a terrible ice crossing all the time. Maybe you could put some big bushes in there so you don't have to build the space up. There are also questions about where Garrett Park property begins and ends—though we should take care of it whether it's ours or not.”

Peter thanked Jack for those details and said that Gene has indeed noted the problem. “We have asked our engineers to take a look at it. We're going to get a proposal from the engineers. The process is ongoing.”

Kacky Chantry wasn't sure about the bushes; she worried about visibility problems. “When we really get into the growing season things get all covered up.”

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Tara Flynn remarked: "Talking to the county might make sense; it's always a problem to do something to property that's not yours and then the people who do own it get upset."

Peter responded that we will indeed coordinate with the county. In any case, we have to get a permit.

Hans Wegner reminded us that "there's a lot of water coming out of there. So whatever we do, we have to keep that in mind."

A technical amendment to the mid-year budget (in a computer error, two columns were added incorrectly) was now unanimously approved. There were a couple of questions about the budget, including one about our maintenance facility. We've budgeted \$10,000 for an engineering estimate (we are looking at a significant upgrade of the building), but since we're not yet ready to act on this, why not, asked Phil Schulp and Kacky Chantry, put that money elsewhere?

The Mayor responded that while it's true that this is a "long-term" project, "you don't get to long term until you start planning." Hans agreed that "you need money to be there if you want to start planning."

All at the table agreed that we should decide on what we might be able to do in the short term at the maintenance facility.

In his Town Manager's Report, Gene reported that for our March financials, "both revenue and expenditure items remain within the projection. There is nothing in the budget that I expect will become a problem between now and the end of the year. We do have some additional tree work coming—also street cleaning work—but we certainly have the money in this budget to take care of everything we need to do."

Questions were again raised (as at the Council's last meeting) about whether we will hit our target on Town Hall rentals, and Gene noted that "in past years we've always gotten more revenue toward the end of the fiscal year. I expect we'll be pretty close this year."

"All those last-minute June weddings," suggested Tara.

A certain amount of mumbling about the specifics of the budget now commenced between Councilmembers and Gene. I did my best to hear what they were saying. Big picture: Local income taxes, real property taxes—it's all copacetic.

The meeting ended with a beautiful valedictory by Hans Wegner—he was thanking Tara Flynn for her tenure on the Town Council. Whether it was dealing with the task of the personnel directory or the transition to a new Town Manager—whatever Tara volunteered to do, she did it professionally, smartly, collegially. "I really, really appreciate the time you put in and the professionalism you showed in all your many activi-

ties for the town. Most residents maybe don't know what's going on at the volunteer level—the commitment involved. I thank you; we all thank you. It has been a pleasure working with you."

Tara responded with her own heartfelt thanks: "I have appreciated the opportunity to serve. I'll miss this."

Margaret Soltan

## May 15: Film and Politics

What's the common thread between *All the President's Men* and *The Exorcist*? What about between the 1951 version of *The Day the Earth Stood Still* and *Seven Days in May*? Students of movies and politics will know the answer is Washington, DC. How many other films can you name?

On Sunday, May 15, at 3 pm at the Town Hall, the Garrett Park Film Society is sponsoring a lecture and presentation by Mike Canning, a Capitol Hill resident, film historian, and critic, on the long and complex relationship of the movie industry and the way it portrays DC to the world. Based on his book, *Hollywood on the Potomac*, Mike will discuss more than 50 motion pictures, revealing how Washington has been treated as either subject, setting, or background. He will spice his presentation with a companion DVD showing both stills and film clips from many of the films being discussed. Copies of his book will be available for sale, as well.

There is no fee to attend the 60 to 90 minute event. The Film Society will also provide light refreshments.

Hope to see you at the Town Hall!

Jack Mandel

## Come to the Musicale!

Remember to mark your calendars for the 20th Garrett Park Musicale 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), which supports a year of private music lessons for a budding musician at Garrett Park Elementary School. Well worth supporting—and fun!

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  
Secretary: Mike Grieb

### Bugle staff:

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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

*Election Day, Monday, May 2.* Mark your calendar, and please remember to vote! The Mayor and two seats on the Town Council will be on the ballot. A detailed election schedule and notes from each of the candidates are included in this edition of the *Bugle*.

Plan to attend the Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 pm, at the Town Hall. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet and ask questions of the candidates.

Also, plan to attend the election reception at the Town Hall. The Town Hall bell will be rung before the announcement of the election results. The evening will include a swearing-in ceremony and reception, which starts at 9:30 pm. We expect the results to be available by 10, so plan to come and greet the newly elected Mayor and Councilmembers.

*Fiscal Year 2017 budget.* The FY 2017 Operating and Capital Budgets were approved at the April 11 Town Council meeting. Copies of the budgets are available at the Town Office. The FY 2017 budget leaves the real property tax rate unchanged at 21 cents per \$100 of value, and the personal and corporate property tax unchanged at \$1 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The refuse collection fee also remains the same, at \$333 per household.

*Large item pickup.* The next large item pickup is scheduled for Saturday, June 25. Remember to place your items curbside no later than Friday.

*Street cleaning.* Town streets will be cleaned during the week of April 25. We will provide the date of the cleaning and ask that you move your cars off the streets so the cleaning can extend from curb to curb.

*Reminder regarding permits.* If you are planning to do any construction this spring, please remember that a Garrett Park building permit

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## Call for Graduates, Jobs Lists

In upcoming *Bugles* we expect to provide lists of local students graduating from high school, college, and beyond. If you have names to be included, please remember to send them to the editor ([gp.bugle.editor@gmail.com](mailto:gp.bugle.editor@gmail.com) or box 191). Please include the names of the relevant institutions graduated from, where the graduates are headed next (if known: work, college, grad school, gap year, etc.), and any other relevant details.

We will also be assembling a list of young people offering to do jobs such as babysitting, yard work, etc. Please send me names, ages, contact numbers, and jobs offered. At the same time, you can send this info to Elizabeth in the Town Office, who also maintains such a list (and can give out leads throughout the year to those who do not scrupulously save all their old *Bugles*).

Barbara Collier

is required whenever a new structure is to be built, including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is in addition to the required Montgomery County permit. To save time, it's a good idea to complete your Garrett Park permit and submission of plats and drawings before requesting a county permit.

If you have any questions about town services, please call the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

## Town Election Schedule

- Wed., Apr. 27 Candidates Forum, Town Hall, 7:30 pm  
Last day for regular absentee ballots from Town Office, available till 4 pm
- Thurs., Apr. 28 Late absentee ballots available in person only from Town Office, 8:30 am–4:30 pm
- Mon., May 2 Election Day. Polls open in Penn Place lobby, 7 am–7:30 pm  
Absentee ballots and late absentee ballots must be received by Judges of Election by 7:30 pm.  
Election reception at Town Hall, 9:30 pm; results announced around 10 pm; swearing in of elected candidates

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## Spring Tree Walk

Save the date—Sunday, May 22—for a stroll around Garrett Park with Town Arborist Phil Normandy. Our walks are usually in the fall so this is a chance to see trees that really shine in the spring as well as some of the more unusual trees in the town's collection. Phil has a wealth of knowledge and interesting stories about our trees—you'll see your neighborhood in a whole new light after a walk with him.

Meet at 1 pm in front of the Post Office at Penn Place. (Walk will last for about 2 hours, but you can leave the group at any time.)



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## Citizens Association Notes

*2016 Candidates Forum.* The Citizens Association presents the candidates' forum on Wednesday, April 27, at 7:30 pm, at the Town Hall. The candidates for Town Council and Mayor will present opening remarks and have an opportunity to address questions from the audience. This is a chance for everyone to participate in the democratic process. Please check out the statements from each candidate in this month's issue of the *Bugle* (see pp 7-11).

*2016 dates to save.* No CA meetings are scheduled for May/June. Contact us if you have an idea!

Already on the schedule are the 4th of July festivities, the Newcomers' Welcome (Sunday, September 18), and the return of Spooky Woods (Saturday, October 29).

*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.

*Annual dues.* The Citizens Association 2016 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$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.* Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, 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.

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

April 12's Lunch Bunch brought 20 of us together with an abundance of delicious food and the song "April Showers," led by Jim Agenbroad. Mayor Peter Benjamin and Town Manager Gene Swearingen were able to join us, as they have been available to do so from time to time over the past year.

We also had a smashing good time at the March 8 Lunch Bunch, with 18 in attendance, and first-timer Ken Keppel bringing some new energy and the idea of establishing a walking group here within our beautiful town arboretum, and possibly an occasional field trip to someplace else lovely and nearby. (Colorful flyers in the post office.) If this interests you, please get in touch with Ken. Ken's idea generated a lot of fun discussion and some hearty laughs around the Lunch Bunch table. Also, Ken and wife Gayle have been studying Tai Chi for the past two years with Garrett Park's own Joanne Chang and Charles Votaw and have only praise for this practice. They now know the entire 36 postures form! You can check out the Tai Chi class on Thursday evenings, 7 pm, in Garrett Park Elementary School's all-purpose room, and on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am on the basketball court at Penn Place.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors meetings take place the first Thursday of every month, except August, at 10 am in the Town Office (third floor, Penn Place). All meetings are open, and we welcome you for a visit or to join the committee. If you have any questions, please call Committee Chair Bonnie Tyler or Elizabeth Henley in the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Now that every one of the last inches (all 30 of them) of snow have finally disappeared, we want to thank the Garrett Park Maintenance crew (along with JC Walter) and the neighbors who gave a helping hand to dig many of us out of this fantastic snowstorm. We realize it was double duty to get your own shoveling done along with your neighbors', but you did it and we're grateful.

Now for the freezing temperatures to subside and bring us a beautiful spring and May flowers!

Bonnie Tyler

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## Need Plants?

Gardeners and anyone who loves plants won't want to miss the Bethesda Community Garden Club's annual plant sale on Thursday, May 12, from 7 am to 1 pm. Find wonderful buys on a large selection of locally grown plants at the sale, to be held at the Bethesda Farm Women's Market, 7155 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda. Plentiful metered parking is available in the lot behind the market.

For more information about the club and the sale, go to [www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org](http://www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org). Many of the plants to be offered at the sale are grown right here in Garrett Park!

## Thank You and Endorsement

As many of you know, I decided not to run for a third term on the Town Council. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve on the Council. Thank you for giving me that opportunity. I will miss working on your behalf.

It was a very difficult decision. Weighing on my mind was the unfinished sidewalks project—the completion of which has been in the forefront of my efforts over the last three and a half years. I could only have reached this difficult decision knowing that there was a candidate for my seat who will continue to carry out this important work. Thankfully, Jane McClintock, a resident on Oxford Street, was willing to run in order to ensure completion of the project, as well as address other areas of interest to her, including the town's stormwater management issues. I met Jane when she was a fellow parent at the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School. Her son and my daughter were in school together there in Miss Angelika's 3's class and Miss Brenda's 4's class. After Jane and her family moved to New

Jersey for several years, they returned and our kids are in school together again at Tilden. She is a lawyer and committed environmental advocate. She is an asset to our town and will be one to the Town Council.

I fully endorse Jane and am thrilled that my colleague Hans Wegner is willing to continue his good work on the Council. The election of Jane and the re-election of Hans are crucial to the completion of that project. However, the project will not come to fruition unless we have a Mayor committed to the project. The only candidate for Mayor who has that commitment is Peter Benjamin, who has worked tirelessly to achieve this goal.

I ask any of you who supported me in the past to please support Jane, Hans, and Peter. If you did not support me, please support them. They will ensure the completion of the sidewalks project and continue to tackle the many other issues that face the town with fairness and careful analysis.

Tara M. Flynn, Town Councilmember, 2012–2016

## Townwide Yard Sale

The next townwide yard sale is on Saturday, May 21, from 9 am to 2 pm.

To participate, notify Caroline Turner so that she can include your location on the sale map, and also publicize any special items or categories that you might be selling. You also need to provide her with a \$5 fee to help cover cost of ads and signs.

For your part:

- Start collecting items to sell.
- Set up your own independent sale anywhere on your property on May 21 Or join with neighbors for a mini-multifamily sale.
- Highlight your location (signs, 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.

For more information, contact Caroline. Send \$5 in cash or check (made out to Garrett Park Women's Club) to Box 173 or 11116 Rokeby.

## Greening Report

This month's green banner is sponsored by Marian Green (how appropriate), who sent in a donation to celebrate her Montrose Avenue neighbors, past and present. Many thanks!

If anyone else would like to support the green in future months, please make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45, with "greening" in the memo line, and mail it to the Citizens Association at Box 456. We'd be most grateful.

If you would like your sponsorship to honor something or someone, please enclose a note to that effect with your check. If possible, please also send the information to editor Barbara Collier by e-mail ([gp.bugle.editor@gmail.com](mailto:gp.bugle.editor@gmail.com)); phone, USPS, or a note on the door would also work... check the boxed masthead (p 2) or your directory for details!

### Services for Seniors

<p><b>Activities of Daily Living</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bathing</li> <li>• Lifting</li> <li>• Personal Care &amp; Hygiene</li> </ul> <p><b>Support Services</b></p> <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>	<p><b>What Makes ElderCaring Different?</b></p> <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>
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Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

# Art at Penn Place

The gallery is currently showing the work of Garrett Park artist Jane Salomon. If you haven't yet had a chance, go see her wonderful "Squiggle Paintings," on display until May 21. The inspiration for her show comes from a TED Talk video sent by a friend, which showed how another artist with neurological damage to his hands took his doctor's advice to "embrace the shake." In Jane's case, a diagnosis of Essential Tremor has caused her to reinvent her approach to her art, and a series of squiggle paintings are the result. They are fun, inventive, and unique, and we hope you will stop by the gallery to see them!

Beginning May 23, we are pleased to present the work of Garrett Park artist and teacher Martha Seigel. In Martha's own words, "As I worked toward my Master's Degree in Fine Art at the American University, little did I know that the very town I live in would one day have its own exhibition space with ongoing, monthly shows. Hoorah for the Penn Place Gallery!"

Martha's upcoming exhibit will be a mixture of recent work and not so recent, abstract and realistic ... and she wishes to remind us that "all art is abstract!" In preparation for this show, Martha had fun looking through portfolios of older, realistic work, going all the way back to her college days. A walk down memory lane! She decided it might be interesting to try to connect her past with the present and tuck a few older, realistic art works into a display of more recent abstractions. Thus, together, old and new, abstract and realistic will "hang out" at Penn Place. But just to keep us on our toes, and to have a little fun, she will not hang them in chronological order!

Please join Martha at her Meet-the-Artist reception on Sunday, May 29, from 3 to 5 pm. Her work will be on exhibit at the gallery through June 18.

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## Progressive Dinner, Saturday, May 21

Join your neighbors for this fun annual event! Complete the registration form below.

I/we would like to participate in the 2016 Progressive Dinner on Saturday, May 21.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Choose your top three preferences from the following 9 options, indicating first, second, and third choices. (You will receive confirmation after May 11.)*

If you routinely provide salad or dessert, please consider providing a main course or even hosting. Thanks!

### Hosting options

All host houses will receive wine.  
 Please indicate maximum number of guests you can accommodate: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Host salad / provide bread at my home (for 10 to 20, depending on your house)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Host main course / provide bread\* at my home (for 8 to 20, depending on your house)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Host vegetarian main course / provide bread\* at my home (for 10 to 14)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Host dessert at my home (for about 30 to 50); two or three homes will host.

*\*Depending on the number of hosts and the size of host homes, you may be asked to provide a starch. Thanks!*

### Provider options

- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide appetizer (for 20 to 25)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide salad (for 12 to 14\*\*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide meat main course (for 12 to 14\*\*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide vegetarian main course (for 12 to 14)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide dessert (for 20 to 25)

*\*\*The number will be confirmed at a later date.*

**Special dietary needs?** (Vegetarian, vegan, allergies, other)

Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interested in volunteering to coordinate this event?**

Yes  No

Cost: \$7.50 per person/\$15 per couple

Please return form to

Garrett Park Progressive Dinner/GP Women's Club  
 Box 494  
 Garrett Park, MD 20896

Make checks payable to Garrett Park Women's Club.

Questions? Contact Lillian Del Priore

Deadline for registration: **Monday, May 11**, please.

## Candidates' Statements

The following statements were received from candidates for Mayor and Town Council.

### Hans Wegner, for Council (Incumbent)

I am passionate about our town. We all know it is a unique place to live, to raise a family, to make friends, to enjoy a real sense of community, to experience the rich diversity of expertise, interests, and backgrounds among its residents, to enjoy the benefits of town government and a walk to the post office, to live with architectural diversity, etc. We enjoy its sylvan walkability, its caring for others through GIVES and the Betsy White Fund, the nurturing atmosphere of the co-op nursery school and the festive enjoyment of town and progressive dinners and soup suppers, or the simple sociability of haggling at the Attic-in-the-Street sale.

This uniqueness is not an accident of history but is the result of the vision and actions of those who lived here before us. I see my role as building on that legacy of service to do what I can to make this an even better place for the next generation.

To that end I have served as an officer of the Citizens Association, been actively involved in two traffic committees, a Penn Place parking committee, a streets and roads restoration committee, and finally the Strathmore Avenue planning committee (to reduce speed and improve safety). I have most recently served on the Town Council where, among other things, I have

- served as the liaison with SHA to rebuild and replant Strathmore Avenue (I coordinated driveway and parking treatments with all adjoining residents);
- along with the Mayor, pushed for and executed the development of a Capitol Improvement Plan (CIP) that identified all town assets (buildings, parks, roads, vehicles, etc.) and provided the town with a timetable for repairing and restoring these;
- been principally involved in two major storm-water management projects—Shelley Court and lower Kenilworth;

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Check out Jeremy in the community at: [KindinMd.org](http://KindinMd.org)



- overseen three major street repair and restoration projects over the past six years, in accordance with the CIP;
- identified streets where storm runoff can be better managed with installation of curbs and gutters and arranged to install them;
- switched to wind-generated electricity for all town power use in 2008 to reduce our carbon impact;
- converted all of Penn Place and Town Hall to CFL and LED lighting where practical;
- worked with the Town Manager to convert all Strathmore lighting to LED;
- identified a rock salt alternative for winter street maintenance and developed a policy to minimize the use of snow melt application to protect the environment and Rock Creek; and
- actively worked to get ownership of the Community Center building (nursery school) transferred from the county to the town of Garrett Park, ensuring that the GPNS would continue to have a place to operate. I strongly supported the GPNS's plan for renovating and managing this facility.

My philosophy as a Councilmember is to work for consensus, to find common ground, and to work cooperatively with others on the Council. I firmly believe that, even on difficult issues, if we ask the right questions and learn the facts, the right solutions will emerge so that reasonable people can agree upon the wisest course of action. I am conscientious about doing my homework and learning the facts on an issue in order to make well-informed decisions. I work hard and take my volunteer responsibilities seriously. I am fiscally responsible and committed to the wise use of public resources, but also firmly believe that we should avoid being penny wise and pound foolish. I am committed to making decisions based on the best interest of *all* residents in an open and transparent atmosphere.

Garrett Park is changing and will continue to change. The challenge for us is to manage that change in such a way as to strengthen our sense of community and to protect the uniqueness of our little island from the surrounding hubbub of development. We can make GP ever more appealing by nurturing community and through civility in our discourse. When we do disagree, we should do so with respect and appreciation for the real and genuine efforts expended for us by our many volunteers.

I am running for Council because I want to

- continue to make a difference, doing my part in building on what preceding generations created here to make Garrett Park unique;
- improve the public safety of all of our residents by building the proposed sidewalks

on Kenilworth, Clermont, and Oxford in an environmentally and aesthetically sensitive manner;

- continue on the path we have developed for rebuilding our streets to bring them into a state of good repair;
- review and update the CIP (now 12 years old) and implement its recommendations to make sure we take good care of our town-owned assets;
- develop a Storm Water Management plan that can be the basis for discussion by town residents on how best to deal with this critical issue;
- review the possibility of improving the town's maintenance shed to provide a more practical and safe working space for our hard working town maintenance staff; and
- complete the Strathmore initiatives we have begun. I have been working with SHA (State Highways) to upgrade the Keswick crossing in time for the pool opening (work has begun), rebuild the deteriorating crossings at Kenilworth, and properly repair failing road surfaces, particularly between Montrose and Clermont.

I feel honored to represent you on the Town Council and want to do my part to build on the legacy of preceding generations. I greatly appreciate and thank you for your support.

### **Liz Overstreet, for Town Council**

I've been fortunate to have lived in Garrett Park since 1986. One of the many things I appreciate is the diversity of our community. We have a lot of long-time residents, folks who raised their children here and are now welcoming their grandchildren, and we have a lot of new young residents and their kids, putting down new roots.

We've had some wonderful new homes built in town, along with some beautiful restorations of historic homes. Adapting to these circumstances has on occasion been contentious, but in the end, it's been part of what keeps our town fresh and yet still unique and charming.

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I really enjoy working to bring people together. It's what I have spent my career in the tradeshow and events industry doing—working to create environments that bring people together.

I am a creative problem solver, enjoy working as part of a team, and pay attention to the details. I have experience in negotiating/managing contracts and developing/managing budgets. I thrive in an adaptive environment and embrace new technologies. My goal is to consistently deliver something that meets peoples' needs. All this requires really good, open communication.

I think these same skills are important to being on the Council and taking on the responsibilities of working together collectively to make decisions.

Some things I want to work on:

- Repairs and improvements to our Town Hall. This will not be inexpensive, and we will need to make sure that we spend our money wisely and well. Beyond the "must haves" of basic structural repairs, what do you want on our "wish list?" Improvements in functionality? Energy efficiency? Adding new capabilities with technology?
- Better information sharing. We need our Council and our Mayor to be more proactive in sharing information with all of us. We will soon have a new Web site, and I'd like to make sure that we take full advantage of it to push out important information on upcoming decisions, and post pertinent information. I'd also like to see a Web page devoted to information about what's happening around our town that affects us as a community.
- Safety issues. We need to discuss and develop a priority list of things we can do short-term, and then long-term to maintain and improve the safety of our community.
- Supporting the ongoing work on storm water management solutions. Pamela Rowe with the county's Department of Environmental Planning made a very good presentation at a recent Citizens Association meeting on the county's rainscape and other programs, with one point noted as "N2N" or "Neighbor to Neighbor," where neighbors work collaboratively to resolve drainage issues. I'd like to start a discussion on "NH2NH" or Neighborhood to Neighborhood collaborations and other potential public/private opportunities.

I'd like to develop an Intern Program for students interested in public service and local government. We can take advantage of Montgomery County's Student Service Learning (SSL) program.

I'm fair-minded, practical, pragmatic, and I care. I care about working together so that Garrett Park continues to be a great place to live, raise a family, and grow old in. I like to look at all options when making decisions. In my work, you have to "Think Big and Plan Small." By that



I mean you have to be creative, forward looking and embrace new things *and* sweat the details.

I believe that these perspectives, along with my experience with contracts, budgets, and project management, will make me a good Councilmember.

There is scientific research that has concluded that better decisions get made, and better feelings result about decisions made, when participants trust each other. It's not a "you fall and I catch you" exercise. It comes from knowing each other a little bit better, listening to each other a little better, and being respectful to each other in our disagreements. I think that if Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia could be friends, we can get along too as a community. They shared something in common—love of opera. I think we share something in common too—we care about our town and what happens in it. I would like to be on the Council and work to keep our town a safe, vibrant, and forward-looking community that we can all enjoy in our own individual ways.

I ask for your vote on May 2. Thank you.

### Jane McClintock, for Town Council

My family and I live on Oxford Street, between Weymouth and Keswick, in the "Doris Lynch house." My husband Mark and I have three children: our son is in his last year at Tilden Middle School, our elder daughter is a fifth grader at Barnsley Elementary, and our younger daughter is in second grade at Garrett Park Elementary. Mark is an engineer specializing in rail and transit design, while I practice public interest environmental law.

We were first introduced to Garrett Park in 2005, when we were lucky enough to discover the Garrett Park Nursery School for our eldest. When my husband's job took us to Princeton, New Jersey, I was more upset to leave the nursery school than our son was! After nearly seven years in Princeton, new jobs for both of us brought us back to this area in 2013.

Because I spent my childhood as a military brat moving between six states and three foreign countries, I wanted to give my family the oppor-

tunity to put down roots in a real hometown. Our choice was clear: we knew we had to live in Garrett Park. We weren't able to find the right house immediately, but after a year of renting within the GPES school district, we found our new home nearly two years ago. We love the proximity to schools, friends, and parks for our kids, the easy walk to Metro, and the town's mature tree canopy. Above all, we love the long-standing annual traditions of Garrett Park, such as Spooky Woods, the Fourth of July parade, and the progressive dinner, as well as the daily, weekly, and seasonal opportunities to meet friends and neighbors at the post office, the farmers' market, and the pool.

I would value the opportunity to work on a number of important issues Garrett Park faces as a community. As an Oxford Street resident who regularly walks to Metro and to school with my children, I am a supporter of the sidewalks project. Separating pedestrians from cars will greatly increase safety for residents of all ages, while enhancing the walkability and livability of our town. I'm also very interested in our stormwater management issues. Managing stormwater appropriately can help prevent significant damage to private property. Equally importantly, it can protect the health of the Rock Creek and Chesapeake Bay watersheds Garrett Park is part of. As a former forestry student, I recognize that our town's beautiful trees require careful management and replacement to protect human life and property while ensuring Garrett Park continues to be a green and leafy refuge for future generations. Our public spaces and buildings, such as Town Hall, are the heart of the community, and require thoughtful maintenance and improvement plans to keep them fully functional. I am eager to do my part to contribute to these important long-term goals as well as to the ongoing work of ensuring the town addresses resident and community concerns.

Professionally, I have devoted my career to environmental protection and wildlife conservation. I graduated from Yale in 1997 with a law degree and a master's in forestry and environmental studies. I began my career with the U.S. Department of Justice as a trial attorney in the wildlife and marine resources section. Since 2001, I have done litigation and advocacy for three national and one regional nonprofit environmental organizations. I am currently a senior staff attorney at Defenders of Wildlife, where my portfolio includes marine species such as sea turtles, whales, and sharks, North American bats endangered by white-nose syndrome, and freshwater species and mountain streams imperiled by Appalachian strip mining.

As part of my personal commitment to public and community service, I am currently the co-leader of one daughter's Girl Scout troop and an active parent in the other daughter's troop. I also serve on the board of the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase. I would be honored to

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receive your vote for a seat on the Town Council in the upcoming election. I look forward to getting to know more of our Garrett Park neighbors in the years to come.

### Barbara Jackson, for Mayor

As a long-time resident, I am running for Mayor because I love Garrett Park. I love the sense of community, and the fact that we are an oasis of trees and green space in the midst of suburban sprawl. From personal experience, I know Garrett Park is a wonderful town in which to grow up and to raise a family. I love its traditions and its essential unique character. But a town's vitality needs to be nurtured as much as its history needs to be honored. We need to improve our government, and that starts with the leadership. Good leaders are inclusive, collaborative, delegate well, and, above all else, listen.

Transparency and communication are critical parts of a democracy. Good governance should be the result of a process that is inclusive in considering all residents' opinions and that allows for civil discourse, give and take, in which all may participate. There should be opportunities for residents to ask questions and have them answered by the Mayor and Council. Meeting agendas should be descriptive enough to let residents understand what will be discussed. Further, town meetings, which are open to all town residents, should include substantive discussion of agenda items before any votes occur to allow for full airing of all factors that will influence the Council's decision. The Council should not vote for any project without knowing the scope of work, how much it will cost, and how it will be financed. Residents should have easy access to all public documents.

Good governance is particularly critical due to the many pressing issues before the town that need to be addressed.

1. The town, like most of the country, has delayed maintenance that must be performed.
  - Our Town Hall is in bad shape and in need of an overhaul.

- Our busiest sidewalks are crumbling and hazardous.
- Storm water management and runoff issues have been neglected too long.

2. The town's Web site has been under construction for far too long. The town deserves better.
3. We need to address parking and traffic regulation townwide, but these are a few specific areas requiring attention:
  - Penn Place parking and traffic flow;
  - areas where "bottlenecks" occur, such as Oxford at Weymouth;
  - parking for periodic large events held at the Elementary School and the Town Hall.
4. Residents have identified what they consider serious safety issues for children walking to school. It is irresponsible to wait for sidewalk construction to address these concerns; there are steps that we can take now that will ameliorate this situation.

I believe that I am well qualified to be Garrett Park's next Mayor. With a Bachelor of Science in foreign service from Georgetown University, an MBA in finance from George Washington University, and many years working in finance and audit for defense contractors, I know my way around complex budgets and administration. But of even greater importance is my knowledge of, and experience with, the town. My mother resurrected the Nursery School in 1957 and my sons followed me as legacy students. I have been co-President of the Women's Club, and co-Treasurer and in charge of seasonal hiring for the Pool. I have also served on the Right of Way Committee and on the Land Use Task Force.

Progress and a fresh perspective are what I can offer you as our next Mayor. Please vote for me as an agent of responsible change for the town.

### Peter Benjamin, for Mayor (Incumbent)

I love Garrett Park. I love its beauty, its peacefulness, its safety, and its convenience to urban life while being a sanctuary from the hustle and bustle. I love its character, its residents, and most of all the fact that we are a real community where we know and help our neighbors, which is a rarity in Montgomery County, where often people do not even know their neighbors. I love that we have multigenerational families living in our town and people who have lived here for a large portion of their lives, while all around us residents are transient. I love our accessible government, where most of the residents know me and the Town Councilmembers and are not at all reluctant to call us at any time to discuss town business or their needs. Preserving all of these characteristics of our town while accommodating and embracing the changes needed to move into the future is what I love about being Mayor and I enjoy my role in facilitating that process.

David Altar  
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"

I believe in an open and participatory government, and I believe that we carry out that inclusion and information sharing to a level far beyond any municipality or higher-level governmental body of which I am aware. Many of you have participated in our hearings, discussions, committees, and other outreach efforts. Our e-mails describing activities of the town reach most of you, as do our frequent postings in the Post Office, and we are available in person and by e-mail, with a special address for the Mayor and Town Council to hear your views. I hope that those of you who have been part of these discussions will generally say that you have been heard and respected, even if the result may not have been what you have advocated.

Being Mayor of Garrett Park gives me an opportunity to make a difference in this town by providing leadership and guidance. I would like to stay in this position at least until the proposed sidewalks, approved by the Council and using 100% federal grant funds, are actually under construction. But being Mayor involves much more than doing just one project, and I would like to continue to use my talents to help the town across a broad range of needs and activities.

When I first became Mayor we were prevented by our charter from having a meaningful balanced budget. We amended the charter to allow detailed, balanced annual operating budgets and to introduce multiyear capital budgets. We have used the capital budget to develop an inventory of the town infrastructure and equipment, to determine the life cycle and status of those items, and to prepare a plan to rehabilitate and maintain the town's roads, buildings, trucks, and parks. Under Hans Wegner's unrelenting leadership we have completed the most critical reconstruction of our roads, involving rebuilding areas of subsurface support and then paving.

In that first term we eliminated an arbitrary and unpredictable building variance process to create by ordinance a set of criteria and conditions to guide those decisions and created an advisory committee to work successfully with applicants to find ways to meet their needs within the existing zoning or to advise the Council about the need for and implications of specific variance requests.

We evaluated the structure and utilities in Penn Place and, determining that it could not

survive without major rehabilitation, with the leadership of a citizens committee, we conducted charettes, surveys, meetings, hearings, and discussions about a potential historic reconstruction of the building. As Mayor I facilitated that process and created the financing structure, including a bond bill (100% state grant) and a loan. It was at least as contentious as the current sidewalk project, but I think that most residents would agree that the current building is more consistent with the original, and is more attractive, functional, and energy efficient than the previous one.

I was a member of the Strathmore traffic safety committee, which met for several years to find ways to calm traffic on the thoroughfare. As Mayor I obtained from the State Highway Administration an agreement to rebuild the road through town (including their coverage of the full \$3 million cost), reflecting the recommendations of that committee, which then continued to guide the project through its conclusion. Once again we had an exceptionally controversial project, which involved many hearings, meetings, and discussions, with claims that we would ruin the rural feel of the town and create an urban atrocity. The project included sidewalks which were deemed unnecessary, but are heavily used today.

Two years ago I created a committee to develop parameters for the design and creation of a replacement town Web site. By the time the old one crashed, we had already awarded the development contract and were constructing the new one. We are currently doing final testing on the new site and hope to roll it out for all of you soon.

The myriad issues confronting a Mayor range from trash collection to street sweeping and plowing; from removal of fallen trees to determining which ones to remove before they fall; from recruiting our Town Manager to creating an employee policy and manual; from procuring a new telephone system for the Town Office to enhancing its computer capability; from assessing revenues and potential costs in order to create budget proposals to reviewing audit results to enhance financial security and stability. I am proud that over the years that I have been Mayor we have had balanced budgets and maintained a constant property tax rate, even during a recession.

I want to continue to contribute to our town in these ways, and I ask for your vote so that I may do so.