

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 63

June 2016

No. 6



Calendar

Fri., May 20	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place lobby	Thurs., June 2	GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., May 21	Townwide Yard Sale, 9 am–2 pm, around town; GIVES collection, Farmer’s Market, 9–12 pm; Progressive Dinner, evening	Fri., June 3	Film Society, <i>Bagdad Café</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7 pm, film 6 pm (see p 5)
Sun., May 22	Spring Arboretum Walk, 1–3 pm; Annual Musicale, Town Hall, 4 pm (see p 3)	Sat., June 4	GIVES collection, PO lobby, 9 am–12 pm
Mon., May 23	New exhibit, Penn Place Gallery, Martha Seigel paintings, till June 18	Mon., June 13	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Tues., May 24	Assemble at Town Hall for walk to Strathmore, 10:30 am (see p 2); Arboretum Committee meeting, Town Office, 7:30 pm	Tues., June 14	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm (last one until September)
Sun., May 29	Art at Penn Place, Meet-the-Artist reception, Martha Seigel, Penn Place Gallery, 3–5 pm	Thurs., June 16	<i>Bugle</i> deadline for the July issue: Deadline for summer calendar dates, names of graduates, and summer jobs list (see pp 2, 3); GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., May 30	Memorial Day; <i>no trash collection</i>	Sat., June 18	GIVES collection, Farmer’s Market, 9–12 pm
		Fri., June 24	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby
		Sat., June 25	Large item pickup (see p 3)

A New Addition

The post-election meeting of the Town Council began with the Mayor and the Council welcoming a new Councilmember—Jane McClintock.

“Jane will be a wonderful addition to our Council,” said Peter Benjamin, “and I’m looking forward to working with you.” Peter then turned to re-elected Councilmember Hans Wegner. “Hans will continue the hard work he has always done.”

There were no presentations from residents, and the only action item was an effort to set a date for a Council retreat, during which various responsibilities will be assigned to each member.

The Mayor also asked that at the retreat the group talk about “one significant thing that we would all like to accomplish in the coming year.”

The retreat is open to the public; its date and time will be announced.

Since we remain in the same good financial shape we’ve been in for some time, the Town Manager’s report simply and briefly reiterated this. We’re okay.

A Councilmember wondered what shape our chipper is in. It’s okay. Gene noted that in fact we “haven’t had to purchase any equipment at all this year.”

An engineering firm has looked at the problem at the end of Rokeby Avenue (broken sidewalk; sewer entrance) and come up with some suggestions. And in answer to a question about this which was raised at the last meeting—the area does indeed belong to the town.

A member of the Council now asked about a house near the Strathmore/Keswick intersection that seems to be undergoing significant renovations. Is there a permit for this work? The Mayor

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responded that if renovations are being carried out without a permit, the town will do a stop work order.

Peter now updated us on sidewalks. "We are preparing documents and checking with various organizations that we have to get approvals from in order to move to construction. We are in the process of replacing the engineering firm that did the preliminary design. We haven't done anything with stormwater management since our last discussion, primarily because we want to change engineers first."

As the Mayor adjourned the meeting, he noted that it had lasted only 16 minutes. (Note to Councilwoman McClintock: You have no idea how unusual this is.)

Margaret Soltan

Neighbors Walking

Neighbors Helping Neighbors sponsored a walk on Wednesday, April 20, which was a beautiful day for walking. Marian Green led eight of us on a trip through the history of Garrett Park. Looking further back in time, Jonathan Paul recounted the history of the Newport Mill on Rock Creek and its connection to Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Marian shared a wealth of information about the development of GP, and about its early homes and their residents. Marian encouraged us to visit the Archives to view early photographs of GP.

A second walk is planned for Tuesday, May 24, at 10:30 am. We will walk to Strathmore Hall (about a mile) for a tour of the historical mansion (about 60 minutes). Meet outside the Town Hall. In case of bad weather we will carpool to the mansion. After the tour, those who wish may purchase lunch at the Music Center (\$10-15), bring a brown bag lunch, or return to GP. If you want to purchase lunch, please contact Ken Keppel (see your directory). We need to tell them how many people want to purchase lunch. We hope to see you at Town Hall for another enjoyable walk!

Ken Keppel

Call for Graduates, Jobs Lists

As mentioned last month, in the next *Bugle* we expect to provide lists of local students graduating from high school, college, and beyond. We've received information on about six grads so far. Surely there are more?

If you have names to be included, please remember to send them to the editor (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 are also assembling a list of young people offering to do jobs such as babysitting, yard work, etc. So far, we've heard from about six folks. If you want to be added, 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

Greening Report

This month's green banner is sponsored by Katherine Houston and Elbert Chang of Argyle Avenue, in honor of their first daughter, born on April 22. Congratulations and 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); phone, USPS, or a note on the door would also work... check the boxed masthead (this page) or your directory for details!

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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:

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Vice-President: Michael Lutkenhouse
Treasurer: Bridget Silverman
Secretary: Mike Grieb

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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

Town elections. Congratulations on re-election to Mayor Peter Benjamin and Councilmember Hans Wegner, and to the town's newest Councilmember, Jane McClintock. Many thanks for the fine work of Chief Election Judge Suzanne Grefsheim and to Judges Natalie Grande and Cliff Tarpy. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Henley, who organized and managed the election.

Large item collection. There will be a large item collection Saturday, June 25. Please be sure to place your items curbside no later than Friday evening.

Garrett Park building permits. A reminder to everyone planning a construction project: please check with the Town Office to find out if your project needs a Garrett Park building permit. A town permit is required to demolish any building larger than 400 square feet. A Garrett Park building permit is required whenever a new structure is to be built, including a new house, shed, garage, or similar structure, or when the size of a house is proposed to be increased with an addition, a deck, a porch, or other upgrade. The town's project review is concerned with the relationship of the proposed construction to the size of the lot and its setback from the lot's boundaries. The town also requires a permit for driveway or parking pad construction or repair. While it is not required, it is usually wise to apply for a town building permit before applying for a Montgomery County building permit. If you have any questions about whether your project requires a permit, please call the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

Montgomery County building permits. Montgomery County requires building permits for any structure above ground level (not patios or driveways) including sheds, garages, decks, fences, etc. A county permit is also required for any alteration to a structure (other than ordinary repair or maintenance) and for demolition. The county is concerned with zoning, health and safety, plumbing, structural and electrical issues,

and the like. For more information, contact the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services at 240-777-0311.

Special event. On Sunday, May 22, at 4 pm, the Spring Musicale will take place at the Town Hall. This annual event raises funds for a music scholarship for a 5th grade student at Garrett Park Elementary School. The late Ilah Gieser of Garrett Park, in a gesture of generosity, conceived the idea of an annual scholarship to fund a year's private lessons for a worthy young musician in the local community. To raise money for the scholarship, we hold a musicale every spring to showcase a rich array of vocal and instrumental talent. Suggested donation is \$8. Children are welcome!

As always: If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 301-933-7488.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

Last Bugle before Summer

Summer will be a-coming in before we know it. The next *Bugle* (dated July) will be the last before the summer break: no *Bugles* in August or September. The October *Bugle* will come out late September (around September 23).

So if you have any announcements or events for the summer calendar, please be sure to send them in by the deadline for the July issue: June 16.

Barbara Collier

Thank You

...to all the participants (and shoppers!) at the town yard sale.

We apologize for any inconveniences caused by increased traffic and pedestrians, but hope the town feels that it was worth holding.

See you again in 2 years!

Caroline Turner



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Citizens Association Notes

“If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it.” I can’t find a source for that quote but it certainly applies to the town of Garrett Park. One of the guiding principles of our town is community involvement. If you are reading this, there’s a good chance that you contribute to the unique character of this town by serving on committees, holding office, volunteering, and taking part in the lively discussion of town issues. If you are like me, you may have a calendar full of commitments. After eight hours at my “day job,” it can feel like a burden to realize my work isn’t quite done yet. That said, I truly feel like I get more out of it than I put in, and I know that I benefit from all of the work that everyone in town does.

That’s a preface for what comes next... I need some busy people. First and foremost, I need people who are willing to serve as officers for the Citizens Association in 2017. As the father of a AAA hockey goalie, my weekends are spoken for from now until his first AHL game sometime in 2025. If you or someone you know is interested in helping run the CA, please contact me. Second, please keep an eye on the listserv for a general CA meeting to be held in the next month or so. I need to plan for the 4th of July and Spooky Woods. As it stands, I will likely be out of town for Spooky Woods this year. If you want to see it come back this year, I need volunteers to help in all stages of the planning, setup, and breakdown. Finally, the *Bugle* that you are reading right now is the result of work by dedicated volunteers. Jane, who handles our subscriptions, would very much like to step down, and I need someone to step up. The time commitment for this is not expected to be huge. I’d be happy to discuss what’s involved by e-mail or phone. I think this could even be a job for a high school student with journalistic aspirations and a hunger for SSL hours.

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.

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

Archives News

In the past few years, volunteers from Community Support Services, Inc., have spent Wednesday mornings in the Garrett Park Archives. Since January of 2016, these young men have digitized over 800 photo negatives to make accessible our collection of images of people, street scenes, and events, a fascinating record of our town’s past. Come and see. (The entrance to the archives is to the left of the Post Office counter. Look for the sign.)

Spring into Yoga

at Garrett Park Town Hall

Tuesdays:

5:30–6:15 pm—Breathing and meditation

6:30–7:45 pm—Yoga (for all)

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ We were sorry to hear of the passing of Randy Dentel, long-time resident of Kenilworth Avenue, who died peacefully April 30. A dedicated public servant, beloved husband, and father of three boys, he was 70. Our condolences go to his wife, Tina Daub.
- ♪ Remember that although the town's old web site is no more, and the new site is not yet, the town does maintain a web presence at www.garrettpark-md.gov. A single page provides calendar information and various links.
- ♪ Observant readers will have noticed that Mary Moyer, for so many years a stalwart *Bugle* reporter, has not been actively involved with the paper of late. Mary has been having health issues that have significantly curtailed her activities. Currently she is on a waiting list for a liver transplant, a drill with which

she is familiar, as her son Philip underwent a liver transplant (albeit for a different cause) about 10 years ago. Having such familiarity with the process seems to have given Mary a remarkably calm outlook. She is in good spirits, although she is limited by being unable to drive and required to stay within an hour's travel of the hospital where she is on the waiting list. She can move around the house with the help of a walker, and she also uses a wheelchair. She tells the *Bugle* that she is looking for another chair to put on her porch, so that she can offer visitors a seat when they visit. If you do drop by Mary's, don't forget to tell her how grateful we all are for her many years of service to the town, through her efforts for the *Bugle* and the Citizens Association as a whole. Many thanks, Mary.

GIVES: Making a Difference

Because of the enormous generosity, ongoing kindness, and commitment of GIVES supporters, we collected a total of \$4,060 in 2015 to help the hungry and the needy. Thank you to all of our friends, neighbors, and family members for their support!

New for 2016, GIVES will support Stepping Stones Shelter (www.stepsstonesshelter.org), a Montgomery County-based shelter in Rockville. It offers support to homeless families with children, in order to move them from crisis to a stable home environment by providing temporary shelter. GIVES will also continue to donate half of our monetary and clothing/toiletries donations to Thrive D.C. in Washington.

For the first time in GIVES' more than 40-year history, the organization has its own post office box number. So, if you or someone you know would like to make a donation by mail, please send it to GIVES, Inc., PO Box 331, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Mark your calendars. The 2016 GIVES Soup and Bread Supper, held every other year, is scheduled for Sunday, November 13, from 5 to 7 pm at GP Town Hall. Look for further event details and a list of specially invited guests in a future GIVES article...

Rana Koll-Mandel, Nancy Walz,
and Jenny Krivanek



GPFS: Bagdad Café, June 3

A film about the impact one person can have on a whole community, *Bagdad Café* (1987, German, in English and German; rated PG) provides us with a humorous look at human relationships. After a fight with her husband, German tourist Jasmin Münchgstettner finds herself alone in the Mojave Desert "in the most desolate motel on Earth." How she responds will have you thinking about "the nature of being human, and the pleasures of being alive."

The film will be shown at 8 pm. Admission is free for GPFS members and is \$5 per person or \$10 per family for nonmembers.

Dinner, served at 7 pm, will be brats and sauerkraut or a vegetarian alternative, both served with salad and bread. Dessert is undecided at this time. All for \$10 per person. The bar opens at 6:45 pm and serves soda, water, beer, wine, and sometimes popcorn at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5.

Hope to see you there for our last film of spring/summer.



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Letter from the Mayor

Thank you to all of you who participated in the town elections earlier this month. A small town is how the democratic system can work best. We know our candidates. We know our issues. We express our opinions. We vote to elect the representatives whom we believe will reflect our priorities and will make the decisions which we think will be best for our town. I have enormous respect for anyone who runs for office, even if they are my opponents, since I think that it takes courage to subject oneself to the judgment of friends and neighbors. The electoral process and results can be daunting. We are all volunteers, so if we win, we must be willing to expend the time and energy to lead the town into the future, to study the issues, to develop the proposals, and ultimately to make the decisions, which are often contentious. Of course, some of our friends and neighbors will disagree with the actions we finally take, while others agree. So it is important to respect one another, even if we disagree, and to understand that each of us is doing what we honestly and sincerely believe is best for the town.

Those of us who are chosen to make these decisions are grateful that we have been given that opportunity, but we are also aware that we must balance the various views presented to us and must act to reflect the values and character of the town and for its future benefit. Councilmembers and the Mayor are not paid, and we get no monetary benefit as a result of our decisions, only the satisfaction of knowing that we have, to the best of our abilities, done what the citizens of this town have asked us to do: take on the tough tasks, make the difficult decisions, and work with our colleagues in a collaborative process. I ask for your support and understanding as we try our best to serve you.

Some major areas in which I hope we will make progress during my term as Mayor include the following:

- Completing the sidewalk project
- Taking early action on traffic control, as suggested by many in the sidewalk discussions
- Updating our Capital Improvement Program
- Dealing with maintenance and repair of existing sidewalks and paths
- Continuing the road and rehabilitation activities
- Developing a comprehensive plan for tree maintenance and replacement throughout the town
- Exploring actions required to deal with structural and operational deficiencies in the Town Hall
- Accelerating our preliminary explorations of stormwater management for the entire town
- Investigating the possibilities for providing adequate operating and storage facilities for town maintenance activities
- Updating our election procedures, including possible charter and ordinance changes to encourage and facilitate participation by all our residents
- Examining changes in the charter and ordinances to allow the town to be more proactive in traffic and parking management and to allow for an enforcement mechanism
- Conducting a survey of all town-owned land, rights of way, and easements

We will, of course, also deal with the multitude of more immediate and smaller issues which face us. These are ambitious plans, and I look forward to working with the Council and all the town residents in moving them forward.

Peter Benjamin

Elbert Chang, DDS, MS

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