

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 61

November 2014

No. 9



Calendar

Fri., Oct. 24	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO; Pumpkin carving, Penn Place basketball court, 6–7:30 pm (p 4); Film Society, <i>Incendies</i> , Town Hall; supper 7 pm, film 8 pm	Sun., Nov. 9	Art at Penn Place, Dave Almy reception, 3 to 5 pm (see p 7); GIVES Soup and Bread supper, Town Hall, 5 to 7 pm (see p 3)
Sat., Oct. 25	Spooky Woods, Porcupine Woods/Basketball court; 7 pm (see p 4)	Mon., Nov. 10	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Mon., Oct. 27	Last weekly pickup of yard waste	Tues., Nov. 11	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Oct. 30	GPES Halloween costume parade through town, 2:15-ish	Sat., Nov. 15	GIVES collection at Farmer's Market
Fri., Oct. 31	Trick or Treat night	Mon., Nov. 17	e- <i>Bugle</i> available online
Sat., Nov. 1	GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby	Fri., Nov. 21	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO; GPNS Annual Craft Fair preview party, Town Hall, 7 to 11 pm (see p 4)
Mon., Nov. 3	Monthly yard-waste pickup; Dave Almy show begins, Art at Penn Place (see p 7)	Sat., Nov. 22	GPNS Annual Craft Fair, Town Hall, 9 am–6 pm (p 4)
Fri., Nov. 7	Deadline for submitting names for jobs list (babysitting, snow shoveling, etc.; see p 5)	Sun., Nov. 23	GPNS Annual Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm (p 4)
		Wed., Nov. 26	No Citizens Assoc. Meeting
		Thurs., Nov. 27	Happy Thanksgiving from the <i>Bugle</i> staff

On a Foggy Night

It was a moody October evening—fog everywhere, gravestones, skeletons, and spiders spilling out of front yards, orange lights blinking on and off—when the Town Council met. In the Town Hall's back garden, a late-flowering bush gave a romantic scene more romance.

Councilmembers Kacky Chantry and Hans Wegner could not attend this month's meeting.

Four residents made presentations. Three of the presentations opposed, and one supported, the proposed new sidewalks in town.

Tony Altar asked if it was true that the design features under consideration for the sidewalk project are anticipated to cost \$150,000, which is a good deal more than originally estimated.

Mayor Benjamin responded that yes, that amount sounds right. But, he went on, it's not going to cost us anything, nor is it going to cost

the grant anything. The State Highway Administration is taking responsibility for the engineering part of this grant.

Charlie Snyder said that he does not believe the State Highway Administration is likely to pay. "The town will end up spending a lot of money on this. This is a very irresponsible thing to do."

Alison Pierce noted that there are "plenty of days when we walk to school and there are no cars passing. There are also plenty of days like last Thursday when there are plenty of cars even when you're just walking one block. I think sidewalks are a good idea."

John Mulligan remarked that "Some people feel risk, others feel no risk. The issue hasn't been studied objectively. Certainly there are other things besides sidewalks that we can do. I think there are other safety solutions."

(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

The Mayor reminded citizens that the Council passed a resolution to proceed with preliminary engineering. After this, a series of hearings will be held, and after that, a decision will be made.

The question of how to make changes to Town Hall rental policies and fees took up a good deal of subsequent discussion.

Town Manager Gene Swearingen gave the backstory: There have been three cases where town hall space was reserved, and then shortly before the event the person that rented the hall backed out of the rental agreement. We have no policy that really does anything about that, in terms of whether we can hold on to any part of the rent or the deposit. At the moment, if there are cancellations, we return all the money. Is there a way we could add some safeguards so that we don't lose money when these things happen?

Councilmember Joanna Welch, who has been working on a proposed revision, looked at other local municipalities. All have cancellation penalties. We should try to be in line with other municipalities, and to that end, she proposes that the Council write a policy with specific dollar amounts we'll charge for cancellation, plus the number of days required for cancellation without penalty.

The discussion that ensued involved the Council and citizens considering how we might write a policy which is fair, enables us to recover some money, and provides some disincentive for canceling.

Joanna will revise her proposal in line with the discussion, and will present the revision at November's meeting.

In his Town Manager's Report, Gene noted that as of the end of the first quarter, we're in pretty good shape. We do have some concerns, as we did last year, about income tax revenue. We will, however, soon know whether, as we suspect, some citizens are not writing on their return that they are Garrett Park residents. When you don't do this, the town loses money.

Just to be clear, the Mayor noted that at the top of the tax form, under "address," you are asked to say whether you are a resident of a municipality. If you fill in "Garrett Park" under municipality, we get money.

On the subject of money, Gene praised the new town auditor as a pleasure to work with. They "really explain what they're doing. I'd recommend we engage them for a second year."

And now the Council turned to the Keswick tulip tree problem. Some of these trees have fallen over; others need to come down. We lack a comprehensive plan for taking care of these and other trees, Gene explained, and he worries that we've already spent a good deal of our tree budget.

There are ten Keswick tulip trees, and all are big. The state has looked at them and said they

need to come down. But we might try just a trimming—taking some high limbs down. This will reduce the sail effect when wind comes through. The cost for this would be \$700 per tree.

"The most important thing," said Gene, "is not to cause a safety problem in town."

Gene added that Pepco has really stepped up. "When I call and mention the effects of limbs on wires, they've been very responsive. They've been really good about getting out here when I call and taking care of things."

In a brief discussion about plans to rehab the town hall, Councilmember Tara Flynn asked if "we can do something about the crickets." Your reporter had not noticed the ceaseless cricket song during Town Council meetings, but she suspects this is because she hears crickets all the time in her own house and has gotten used to them.

The Mayor concluded the meeting by noting that he "doesn't really know what to do" about the tendency of the state not to commit to writing its plans and intentions relative to the development of the engineering part of the task order on the proposed new sidewalks. "To what degree should we be bureaucratic and insist that everything be written down? I would love to have everything written down, but we're not involved in the development of the task order."

"We're trusting them," said Joanna Welch, "to do what they say they're going to do."

With the meeting adjourned, your reporter once more braved the ghostly streets of Garrett Park.

Margaret Soltan

Green Again

Thank you, thank you, to Donald and Barbara Reed of Kenilworth for their donation to the banner fund for this month. However, we only have two more donations for this printing year, which leaves us with seven more slots to fill for the bucket of donations for the "greening" of the banner. You can make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

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 (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:

President: Michael Lutkenhouse
Vice-President: Sean Conlan
Treasurer: Crystal Lutkenhouse
Secretary: Lori Conlan

Bugle staff:

Editor: Barbara Collier (Box 191)

Reporters: Margaret Soltan (Box 518), Mary Moyer (Box 98), Randy Auerbach (Box 107)

Ads: Mary Moyer (Box 98)

Subscriptions: Jane Salomon (Box 227) **Distribution:** Peggy Pratt
First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Manager's Notes

Lots of upcoming activity to be aware of over the coming weeks.

Spooky Woods. This fun Halloween event, sponsored by the Citizens Association, will occur on Saturday, October 25, beginning at 7 pm and going until 9 pm. This is an exciting walk through Porcupine Woods that starts at the basketball court with light refreshments to prepare you for the adventure!

Halloween. Garrett Park Elementary School will hold its annual Halloween parade on Thursday, October 30, at 2:15 pm. The parade will start at the school, proceed down Oxford Avenue, turn right on Montrose Avenue to the dead end, then return to the school. There will be over 500 participants in this year's parade. The streets will close to vehicular traffic at 1:30 pm.

Halloween itself will be celebrated on Friday, October 31, with trick or treaters strolling through town. For everyone's safety, please drive slowly with headlights on even before dusk. Watch out for the kids!

Leaf pickup. Adding to the fun of the month of October will be the annual leaf pickup, which

will continue through October, November, and into mid December. Please rake your leaves to the curb for pickup and remind your children not to play in those leaves. Drivers, again, be watchful as you drive by the piles of leaves!

Yard waste removal. From November through February, yard waste will be collected on the first Monday of each month. Weekly collection will begin again in March.

Compost bins. These are available for free from Montgomery County. The bins are available for pickup at the Town Office.

Mulch. If you would like to receive mulch from the town, please call the Town Office to be put on the delivery list. The deliveries are usually made within two weeks of the request.

Dogs on the tennis courts. Please do not use the tennis courts on Waverly Avenue as a dog play area. The court on Cambria has been set aside for dog recreation.

Please call (301-933-7488) or come by the Town Office (Penn Place, top floor) if you have any questions or concerns.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

Soup and Bread Supper

All are invited to the GIVES Soup & Bread Supper, which will be held at the Town Hall on Sunday, November 9, from 5 to 7 pm.

Please RSVP by e-mailing or calling Nancy Walz and let her know if you can bring either a soup or bread with butter to share with 10 to 12 people, or contribute other supplies, help set up, clean up, etc.

The event is BYOD (Bring Your Own Drink), as well as bring your own bowl and spoon. This is a family-friendly event—children are welcome.

Alicia Horton, Thrive D.C. Executive Director, will be on hand to say a few words about the many ways that donations actually help those in need.

Looking forward to sharing wonderful homemade soups and bread with you and celebrating 40 years of GIVES!

Rana Koll-Mandel, Nancy Walz, and Karen Anderson

Correction:

The October *Bugle* article on the GP Archives included an error: it stated that new Town Archivist Stephanie Sheridan would be working Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturday mornings. The correct times are Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturday mornings.



as a Garrett Park resident, we'd love for you to enjoy a

Free Appetizer

Lunch * Dinner * Brunch * Happy Hour

NOW OPEN in North Bethesda Market across from Whole Foods.
11333 Woodglen Dr, Rockville, MD 20852 / paladarlatinkitchen.com / 301-816-1100
Free parking is available daily after 5pm and all day on weekends in our lot off Woodglen Dr.

Please bring this ad along to receive your free appetizer.
Each guest may only redeem this offer once. Not valid with other offers. Expires 11/30/14.

Services for Seniors

Activities of Daily Living	What Makes ElderCaring Different?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BathingLiftingPersonal Care & HygieneDressingTransferring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimumAll caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistantsThe owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needsAll caregivers are fluent in EnglishPersonal choice in selection of every caregiverLicensed, Bonded, Insured24 Hours Service – 7 Days a Week
Support Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CompanionshipMeal PreparationMedication ReminderPhysical TherapyLight HousekeepingTransportation to Appointments	

Services now available in Northern Virginia
"The quality of care you would want for your parents."



MD • Call 301-949-0060 VA • Call 703-956-3564
www.eldercaring2.com www.eldercaringofnova.com

Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Citizens Association News

Spooky Woods. It's that time again! Each year Spooky Woods gets bigger and spookier. This year the GPCA's annual Spooky Woods will kick off in Porcupine Woods at 7 pm on Saturday, October 25. Kids of all ages are invited to join us to share scares and laughs at this Garrett Park tradition. Volunteer ghouls are needed that day to set up and during the event to act in "haunted stations." Please contact Sean Conlan before the event if you would like to volunteer or if you have an idea for a "spooky station."

Pumpkin carving. Please join us on Friday, October 24, at 6 pm on the basketball court for the annual pumpkin carving contest. Snacks and refreshments will be provided for this event. We request that you please bring your own pumpkin. We need lots of carvers! Extra pumpkins will be around to help decorate a station in the woods on Saturday.

Newcomers Reception. The Newcomers Reception was a terrific success! We met about five families new to Garrett Park. The CA would also like to thank all the residents who came out to welcome new folks and talk about their groups.

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 Michael Lutkenhouse or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2014 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 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 Michael Lutkenhouse.

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The *e-Bugle* is available online on the town Web site the Monday after the Town Council meeting.
- ♪ Cal Baldwin got a nice surprise from his new neighbors recently. While Betty was in a rehabilitation facility, Shawna Shafer and Laura Sherman supplied Cal with yummy sustenance. He thanks them for the goodies.
- ♪ Any news, sweet and sour, that you would like to see in the *Bugle*? Contact intrepid reporter Mary Moyer (Box 98), who compiles these notes.
- ♪ The annual Museum Shop Around at Strathmore Mansion takes place from Thursday, November 13, through Sunday, November 16. Many local museums are represented: admission (\$8 if purchased online, \$9 at the door) is valid for all days.
- ♪ You should also plan to patronize the GPNS Annual Craft Fair, which runs November 21 to 23—and it has *free* admission. There is a preview party on Friday (see the Calendar, p 1), to which you are all invited. This year the fair is taking full advantage of social media: It has a Web site—www.gpns craftfair.org—and a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/2013GarrettParkCraftFair. You can even follow them on Twitter at @GPNSCraftFair. And of course they are also hoping for good

old word of mouth, so you are encouraged to tell all your friends!

- ♪ From the past: "Estimate of Expenditures, Town of Garrett Park, MD, 1907–8. The following estimate of expenditures of the Town of Garrett Park, Md. for one year from July 1, 1907, has been adopted by the Council of said town, viz: Care and improvements of streets and avenues: \$650.00; Miscellaneous expenses: \$75.00; Salary of clerk and treasurer: \$60.00. Total \$785.00. Rate of taxation 50 cents on one hundred dollars." —*Montgomery Press*, June 7, 1907.

David Altar
David.Altar1@gmail.com

(301) 602-2713

COMP2DAY

Your computer ready, today or tomorrow

Fast, professional repairs & hardware upgrades. At home tutorials. Your computer likely as good as new, or better in most cases.

\$45/hr flat rate.

Free pick-up and return.

Virus removal; **memory** upgrades; restore **speed**; computer to **smartphone** assistance; **printer** help; custom computer builds for **gaming** or other needs. Can't start your computer? **Blue screen** at startup? Computer **slow**? Programs, devices, or features **don't work**? Need **wireless** capabilities? Call or email me and a solution will appear.

"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We frequently get reports of Garrett Parkers who go out of their way to offer a helping hand. One friendly resident carries out a neighbor's heavy barrels of yard clippings for Monday pickup. And once a month several volunteers graciously take over preparations for Lunch Bunch in the Town Hall. Sometimes these actions are labeled "random acts of kindness"—we prefer to call them "neighbors helping neighbors." Whatever you call it, Garrett Park has a goodly share of it, and the efforts are very much appreciated. Thank you!

Committee, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov

Jobs List

If you are or know someone 13 years of age or older who would like to be put on the jobs list (any potential snow shovelers, for instance?), please get in touch with Elizabeth Henley at the Town Office by November 7, so that she can provide us an updated list to print in the next edition of the *Bugle*. The office number is 301-933-7488.

The current list is as follows:

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

Letter to the Editor

Tree Concerns

Our home on Oxford Street was destroyed on June 29, 2012, when a large oak tree fell on it. The tree crushed the brick walls at the northwest corner of the house and destroyed the roof, ceilings, and attic. We lived away from our home for more than 24 months.

I've wondered how this disaster could have been prevented—what we could have done differently. For the 43 years that we've lived in the house, we've had our trees examined regularly first by the senior Mr. Bonifant and then by David Gregg. Whenever advice was given to prune trees in our yard, we had the trees pruned. We wanted to be certain that our home would not be damaged by a falling branch or tree.

For several years we were concerned about the health of the large oak located between our home and our neighbor's home. On one occasion, Phil Normandy, the town's arborist, examined the tree. Our question was: should we have the tree cut down? Phil said that the tree was past its prime, but did not recommend taking the tree down. We also had David Gregg examine the tree on several occasions; his staff pruned the tree.

So what were the characteristics of the oak tree that demolished our home? (1) It was past its prime. (2) It was located on a small hill close to the property line between our home and that of our neighbor. (3) A driveway was located close to the base of the tree. (4) The base of the tree was about 20 feet from the NW corner of the house. An oak tree of similar size had crushed the home of Mary Jane Gill.

What can we conclude? Despite the best advice of experts, and a program of regular inspection and pruning, our home was destroyed by a large oak tree. Homeowners should be acutely aware of the dangers posed by large mature trees located close to their homes. We suggest that the threshold for removing large aging trees located close to homes be reduced.

We don't think the house-damaging events that occur in Garrett Park are random. The town could implement a systematic approach to dealing with the dangers posed by the trees in town. In the time that we have lived at the corner of Oxford and Weymouth Streets, the following individuals' homes have experienced major tree damage: Sylvia Lichtenstein, Bert and Suzi Zbar, Mary Jane Gill, Nancy Floreen, and Ta and Dan Grimley. There are many other examples throughout town. The Arboretum Committee could maintain records of major structural damage caused by both town and homeowners' trees to create a database that would be useful in making future decisions. A survey could be conducted to determine the incidence of tree-related damage to town homes. A database and a survey might enable us to identify the factors that underlie these catastrophic events. The Arboretum Committee might also develop a capacity to provide homeowners with advice regarding when to remove trees.

The tree canopy in Garrett Park is one of the town's jewels. But there ought to be a way to limit the damage to homes caused by these aging giants.

Berton Zbar, 4400 Oxford Street

Put the #1 to work for you

It's official. Jeremy Lichtenstein was Maryland's number one RE/MAX® agent in 2012. Just like he was in 2011, 2007, 2006, 2004 and 2003.

In real estate, experience counts. Jeremy brings together satisfied buyers and sellers in your neighborhood—and has for over 20 years.

There is just One Name in Real Estate.

Jeremy
The One Name in Real Estate



Jeremy Lichtenstein • RE/MAX Realty Services
4825 Bethesda Avenue • Bethesda, Md. 20814
www.jeremyhomes.com • 301.652.0400



Tree Walk Lessons

If there's one thing you learn from going on the annual tree walk with Phil Normandy, it's that you should go for bagels, not volcanos—that is, when you're mulching your trees. Phil is eloquent on the need to avoid the "mulch volcano" too often seen around the base of trees. Go for more of a bagel: no mulch touching the trunk, and then a ring of mulch beginning a few inches away from the trunk; the depth can be a couple of inches or so, and can extend to the drip line or farther. This helps keep weeds and turf from competing with the tree, and keep humans with lawnmowers, weed whackers, and so on from wounding the tree's bark.

Sunday, October 19, was a beautiful day for a tree walk, and about 20 people turned up to follow Town Arborist Phil Normandy around the streets of Garrett Park and hear about the town's tree-related activities and plans, ask questions about trees in general and in particular, and admire the many interesting tree specimens and collections that form the town's arboretum.

Phil explained that the stresses of being a street tree mean that such trees generally live only about half as long as a tree can live in the wild. Soil compaction is a big culprit: soil compacted by walking and driving has less oxygen for the tree to take up and use. The walkers saw a particularly egregious example of tree abuse by auto a few yards from Penn Place: a car that had



Phil Normandy explains it all.

jumped the curb to park right on the roots of one of the maples.

Fortunately, most of the walk afforded more positive sights. Some of the maples were starting to turn, and several other types of trees were pointed out that should be turning in the coming weeks. Many of the walkers were surprised to realize how recently planted some of our trees are, considering how well-established they look. We are fortunate to have an Arboretum Committee and Town Arborist to watch over and care for our trees—not to mention a town staff to do important maintenance.

And mulch volcanos? The great lesson is to remove the mulch and dirt piled up on the roots and let the tree breathe. Overmulching and piling mulch against tree trunks is "like putting a plastic bag over your head," says Phil. Not a good idea.



The dreaded mulch volcano.

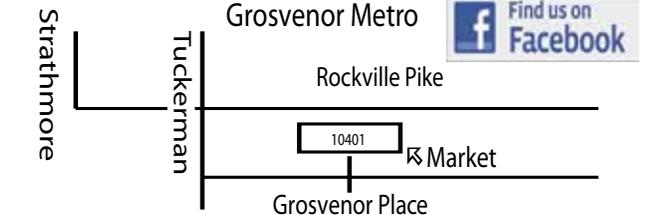


A concerned citizen takes action.



9am-9pm
Mon-Sat
9am-7pm
Sunday
301-493-6217
www.grosvenormarket.com

Grosvenor Metro  Find us on Facebook

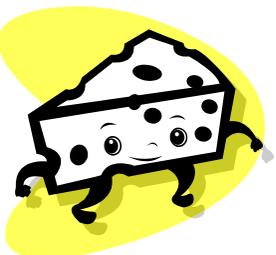


GABE'S TASTING SERVICE

Host a cheese, charcuterie, or wine tasting led by CIA graduate Gabe Mandel.

Learn the culinary history, culture, and science of your tasting.

Demystify the art of pairing, and take away easy recipes to create your own pairings!



Gift Certificates Available!

Contact: Gabriel Mandel
(240) 498-4603
chezgabe@gmail.com

Art at Penn Place

What a great turnout we had for the Series 10 Exhibit and Champagne Gala! The artwork received high praise, and everyone had fun meeting the artists and mingling with friends and family. A big “thank you” to Black Market Bistro for the delicious pizzas and torte—always a favorite in the Gallery!

If you haven't yet visited the Gallery to see the fascinating etchings of John Guernsey, there's still time to stop by! John's work is unique... and his exhibit will be on display through November 1.

Beginning November 3, the Gallery is pleased to present the work of long-time Garrett Park resident artist David Almy. Most of us have seen Dave driving through town in his cool green truck, or sitting on his front porch crooning to his ukulele on a warm summer evening! As an architect, Dave has special interest in the buildings of Garrett Park, and his watercolor paintings of the Town Hall, Penn Place, and the Garrett Park Post Office are treasured keepsakes of our town's

history. Dave has drawn and painted several hundred “Home Portraits” of houses all over the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, and the Bahamas, and in this show, he will exhibit his paintings of Garrett Park homes.

As a special holiday treat, Dave will offer for sale an original Advent Calendar depicting a winter scene of Garrett Park, showing the Victorian homes as they would have appeared at the turn of the century. These calendars will be available at Dave's Meet-the-Artist reception on November 9 from 3 to 5 pm—what a wonderful holiday gift! Please join us for this special November reception and exhibit at the Penn Place Gallery.

Reminder, if you are part of the Facebook community, please be sure to visit and “like” our Facebook page, “Art at Penn Place”! It is a great way to keep up with Gallery events and get a special peek at the art on exhibit.

Letter from the Mayor

I recently received a telephone call from the editor of *Montgomery* magazine. One of his reporters had written a story about the Chevy houses in Garrett Park, and he wanted to broaden the potential article with more information about the town. This is like handing me a present: an opportunity to talk about Garrett Park and what makes it so special, one of my favorite activities.

I told him about Garrett Park being a true community in which we know and care about our neighbors. I described our recent newcomers' reception in which many of the longer-term residents welcomed the newer ones and told them about the myriad of town activities. I explained that Garrett Park is different from much of the rest of Montgomery County in that our residents tend to live here much longer, with many multi-generational families and people who have lived here since their youth preserving the traditions of the town, and with housing turnover being much more limited than is typical for the Washington, DC, suburbs.

I described many of our other activities that draw the community together, such as the Attic in the Street sale, Spooky Woods, the July 4th parade, the town dinner, Porches and Patios, the progressive dinner, picking up our mail at the post office, and, of course, Town Council meetings, where we participate on a personal basis in the workings of our government and have a say in how our town moves into the future. I pointed out that we have a swimming pool, a cooperative nursery school, a day care center, and Garrett Park Elementary School, all of which draw together our community and include people beyond our borders.

I related the story of the development of Garrett Park as a commuter suburb, the founding of the town to outlaw indoor plumbing, and of our rich historic heritage, which we document in our archives, managed by the Archives Committee, and which we cherish and protect with the help of our Historic Preservation Committee. I explained that the entire town was a National Historic District, as well as an arboretum (guided by the Arboretum Committee) and a nuclear-free zone.

Explaining the introduction of Chevy houses into the housing stock that was previously more Victorian, I described the origin of the name (an option to purchase a Chevy as part of the house price and mortgage) and the compromise reached between the town and the developers to build Chevy houses only on alternate lots, leaving spaces for other types of homes in between. I talked about the eclectic variety of homes in the town and that we had our own zoning, in addition to and stricter than the county's.

Of course I told him about our volunteer elected officials, how dedicated they are, and how town government is accessible because we all live in a small town and our constituents are our neighbors. When I finally released the editor from my endless stream of statements about how wonderful our town is and concluded the call, my wife said that it was clear that I was having a great time talking about the town. Yup, I love Garrett Park for good reason, and I don't mind letting people know why.

Peter Benjamin