

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 62

February 2015

No. 2



## Calendar

Fri., Jan. 23	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> from table in PO lobby; Film Society, <i>Tell No One</i> , Town Hall, dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm	Sat., Feb. 7	GIVES collection at the Post Office lobby, 9 am–1 pm
Sat., Jan. 24	Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6 pm (reservations required; see p 4)	Sun., Feb. 8	Archives Presentation: <i>Haile Yes!</i> , Town Hall, 2 pm (see p 2)
Thurs., Jan. 29	GP Jams Coffee House, Town Hall, 7:30–10 pm	Mon., Feb. 9	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Mon., Feb. 2	Monthly yard waste collection; Art at Penn Place, Felisa Federman, mixed media (through Feb. 28; see p 5); SRTS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, Town Office, 7:30 pm	Tues., Feb. 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Feb. 5	GP Jams Coffee House, Town Hall, 7:30–10 pm	Thurs., Feb. 19	GP Jams Coffee House, Town Hall, 7:30–10 pm
		Fri., Feb. 20	Film Society, <i>20 Feet from Stardom</i> , Town Hall, dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 2); Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby
		Wed., Feb. 25	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (topic TBD)

## Boring Is Good

Twenty-three Garrett Park households filled out their tax forms incorrectly last year (or the people they hired to fill out the forms filled them out incorrectly), failing to write down that Garrett Park is a taxing district. Up near the top of the form, where the name and address stuff is, there's a line that says town or taxing area (see p 3). If you don't write Garrett Park there, the town doesn't get money that it ought to.

In a January Town Council meeting devoted almost exclusively to such money matters, the Council and the Mayor were anxious to convey to the town the importance, this tax year, of noting our town on your form, so that we get what's coming to us. You wouldn't want the town to start increasing taxes to make up for this lost revenue.

If it helps, remember this jingle:

Make a mark, make a mark, make a mark mark mark.  
Garrett Park, Garrett Park, Garrett Park Park Park.  
(To the tune of the *William Tell* Overture)

The Council regaled this month's audience of two (a third person wandered in from a Samuel Beckett play, looked around, and wandered out) with many budgetary matters (they ultimately

voted unanimously to introduce, at the next meeting, an ordinance that will in various ways adjust our budget), confirming yet again your reporter's impression that our elected officials, plus our town manager, work hard to be good stewards of the town's money.

Part of that stewardship involves being as transparent and efficient as possible with the donations generous people in this town often make for various local projects. The Mayor noted that while historically Garrett Park has been the sort of place "where we just sort of do stuff," it's important to process these contributions properly. So a good deal of the meeting involved a discussion of how we'd like to clarify and formalize our donation policies. Benches, trees, holiday gifts to the town staff—these are the sorts of things we're talking about.

Kacky Chantry and Phil Schulp will work up a proposed tree donation policy; the Arboretum Committee will also take part in these decisions.

"Let's try," cautioned Tara Flynn, "to make this as streamlined as possible so that it isn't difficult for people to do something nice."

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In his Town Manager's report, Gene Swearingen noted that "we are still ahead of our midyear target. Revenues are up a little bit. Town Hall rents are up. Things look pretty good." He noted, however, that we've got big expenses looming on trees, especially some Keswick Avenue trees.

That was it. The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned.

Was this meeting a bit dull? Was it even what you might call boring?

Remember what David Cameron just said in a speech to his party about governing: "Boring is good."

Margaret Soltan

## Next Film Is Award Winner

On February 20, at 8 pm, the Garrett Park Film Society presents *20 Feet from Stardom* (PG-13), the 2014 winner of the Oscar for Best Documentary. The film provides a look into the life of the backup singers for some of the rock era's greatest acts, including Ray Charles, David Bowie, the Rolling Stones, Sting, and Michael Jackson. We all recognize their sound, but not them. The film explores what separates them from the stars they support. Rotten Tomatoes described it as "Rich, insightful and occasionally heartbreaking." One thing is certain: along the way we will hear a lot of great music.

Dinner will be served at 7 pm. The menu is yet to be determined, but will be satisfying, just like the film. Cost is usually \$10. Soda, beer, and wine will be available at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5, or an equivalent number of coupons.

Admission to the film is free for GPFS members, or \$5 per person or \$10 per family for non-members. Remember, it is still a good time to become a GPFS member. Membership forms are available in the Post Office lobby.

All this takes place, as usual, at the Town Hall. Mark your calendar: February 20 should be a great night at the movies.

## Energy Efficiency Incentives

A number of federal, state, county, and utility programs exist to reduce the cost of alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal, and to incentivize homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Some federal programs expired at the end of 2014. Check the GPCAN Web site at [gpcan.org](http://gpcan.org) for an outline of current tax credits, rebates, and exemptions.

Pepco continues the discounted \$100 home energy assessment and upgrade rebates started by the Maryland Energy Administration in 2011. The program, designed to help the state achieve its goal of reducing energy consumption by 15 percent this year, offers a 50-percent rebate (up to \$2,000 total) toward qualifying home efficiency upgrades. For individuals who may need assistance (beyond this rebate) in financing a home energy efficiency investment, the Maryland Energy Administration and Maryland Clean Energy Center offers unsecured home energy improvement loans for up to \$20,000 at 9.99 percent. State and federal tax credits may also apply.

To get started, call Pepco at 1-866-353-5798, or visit Pepco's Web site: [www.pepco.com/my-home/save-money-and-consume-energy/efficiency-rebates-and-incentives-and-programs/md-customers](http://www.pepco.com/my-home/save-money-and-consume-energy/efficiency-rebates-and-incentives-and-programs/md-customers).

For information on the Maryland Home Energy Loan Program, visit [www.mcecloans.com/apPLY-now](http://www.mcecloans.com/apPLY-now).

## Archives News

On Sunday, February 8, the first of two Garrett Park Archives programs will be presented: *Haile Yes!* Oral histories, memoirs, and first-person accounts will explore a legendary Garrett Park character, Haile Chisholm. If you ever pondered what might have prompted his lawsuit against the town or what really transpired across the railroad tracks, you will want to be in the audience at the Town Hall from 2 to 4 pm on February 8.

If you have memories that you can share and wish to be on the panel, please contact Marian Green to join the group.

## 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> <li>• Dressing</li> <li>• Transferring</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?

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.

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 Vice-President: Sean Conlan  
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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](http://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 Notes

**Leaf collection.** The final collection will be made in January. If you still have a few leaves left over, you can either pile them up in a corner of your yard for composting (the Town Office has composting bins available for free), or bag the leaves for the yard waste pickup the first Monday in February (February 2). Please use the paper yard waste bags.

**Christmas tree collection.** If you missed the scheduled Christmas tree pickup, put your tree out and the town maintenance crew will take it away.

**Snow removal.** Snow has not yet fallen in any significant amount. However, just a reminder that it is especially important to try to park off the streets when snow is expected so that the town crew can clear curb to curb whenever possible. This will allow for more space to park after the streets are plowed. If you have a special need for your driveway to be open—medical supplies, caregiver services, etc.—please call the office and let us know so that we can see that your driveway is among the first to have the plowed snow pushed aside.

**Holiday fund.** Thank you to the many residents who generously gave tips to the Montgomery County Sanitation employees who take away our trash, recyclables, and yard waste. A year-end gift was made to each of the six men, and letters of acknowledgement will be sent to all who gave.

**Town Dinner.** The Town Dinner, sponsored by the Garrett Park Citizens Association, will take place on Saturday, January 24 (see p 4).

**Town budget.** The Town Council is making mid-year adjustments to the town budget. Those proposed adjustments are on the town Web site for your review. If you have questions or comments, please give me a call. The Council will consider the proposed adjustments to the budget at the February Town Council meeting on Monday, February 9.

**Resident assistance.** In these winter months it is often hard for some of the town's residents to get out. Please try to be particularly alert for a friend or neighbor who might need a little extra support this time of year. If we here at the Town Office might be of help, please call or drop by.

Gene Swearingen, Garrett-park@comcast.net,  
301-933-7488

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Visit Garrett Park's Web site:  
[www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov)

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## Important Tax Information

The town of Garrett Park receives a small portion of the state income tax that you pay annually. It is one of our most important sources of revenue and is used to help fund the operations of the town.

Because the town's income tax revenues were lower than anticipated last year, we asked the State Comptroller's Office to provide an analysis of the tax returns for Garrett Park residents. That analysis showed that 23 residents did not fill out their Maryland income tax forms correctly, resulting in over \$15,000 in reduced revenue to the town. Of course, we don't know who those 23 residents were, so we are asking *all* residents to take note of this information.

Specifically, some of the preparers of the Maryland state income tax form did not put "Garrett Park" in the box marked "City, Town or Taxing Area" (see the graphic below). Leaving this box blank meant that tax revenue that should have come to the town actually went either to Montgomery County or to Garrett County.

MARYLAND RESIDENT INCOME FORM 502 TAX RETURN

OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2014, ENDING

ZIP code  
City, Town or Taxing Area  
**Garrett Park**

required to file. CHECK

Please note that filling in this box *does not* increase your taxes. It simply means that the town receives its fair share of revenue.

This mistake most often happens when a tax preparer completes the form on behalf of the taxpayer. Please review your tax returns to make sure that this section is completed properly.

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# Citizen Association News

*Be there!* The annual Town Dinner will be on January 24, starting at 6 pm. The theme this year is "The one that got away." It's time to spread some stories of things that have gone missing or that we have lost (we expect some terrific fish stories). The 2015 Officers of the Citizens Association will be elected at the dinner. We are in need of at least two people (the secretary and treasurer are leaving the CA board). If you are interested in joining the board or helping out with the CA or want to RSVP for dinner, please contact Michael Lutkenhouse.

We are working on spring events around gardening, green houses, and more. Watch for a notice in the Post Office and a note to the listserv.

*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.

*Garrett Park listserv.* To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or go to [groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

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

## Citizens Association Dues Due!

The Citizens Association 2015 annual dues are currently being collected. The dues are now \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. It's been a few years since we last raised dues, and we feel it is necessary to keep up with rising costs. This will allow the Citizens Association to keep up the quality of programming and support the *Bugle*. You can pay at the Town Dinner or by mailing the dues to the Citizens Association at Box 456 in the handy envelope we provide this month.

Please fill in the information below and include it in your envelope so that we can credit you appropriately. Your dues cover the major expenses of the Citizens Association (namely this paper) for the year and are also used for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Spooky Woods, and other activities. You can also pay your dues at the Town Dinner on January 24. We hope to see you there.

Name:.....

Amount paid: .....  
(\$25 per family or \$15 per individual at an address)

Street address:.....

.....

.....

# Green Again

Former Garrett Park resident Robert Calvert is this month's benefactor for our green banner. He states that even though he no longer lives here, he enjoys reading the *Bugle*. We thank him for this. We have received several more donations and are now good until June. Anyone else care to jump on the bandwagon? You can make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

## Resident Information Form

You may have noticed a form in the Post Office entitled "Garrett Park (Adult) Resident Information." The town is using this form to help update its records. The information is to be used by the Town Office for reference purposes (for example, in emergencies) and (with your permission) for an updated Garrett Park Directory. (If you are online, you have probably also seen e-mails with links to an online version of the form.) The paper copies are provided for those who are not online or prefer to use paper. They are available in both the Post Office and the Town Office. Please return the filled out forms to P.O. Box 84.

Additionally, as described elsewhere (see p 6) the new Garrett Park Web site (under development) is planned to include a residents-only, password-protected section. Filling out the electronic form allows the town (with your permission) to "pre-populate" your selected data in the password-protected area. (Information collected from the paper forms would be entered manually.) When the Web site becomes active, you will be able to control your information and determine what is available to other town residents. Note that if you want *any* of your information to be included in this area of the Web site, you should indicate that in the appropriate spot on the first part of the form (paper or electronic), even if you prefer to opt out of including certain data, such as e-mail addresses or phone numbers.

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"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"



## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The *e-Bugle* is available online on the town Web site the Monday after the Town Council meeting.
- ♪ All those telephone directories in the post office make a nice artistic installation. However, if you don't want yours, place it in the recycling wastebasket.
- ♪ Did you call in your reservation for the Town Dinner? Good food is always plentiful.
- ♪ Congratulations to Ken Salomon, who was appointed to the ethics committee of the United States Olympic Committee. He is one of three independent representatives on the five-member committee, which was cre-

ated in 2005. Ken says, "I am truly honored and excited to have this opportunity to serve the USOC, and the Olympic and Paralympic movements ... One of the most memorable experiences of my life was cheering for the U.S. women's soccer team with my wife and daughter in the University of Georgia stadium when the U.S. won its first Olympic gold medal in women's soccer in 1996."

- ♪ Meme and Ed Lincoln welcomed grandbaby number two into this world on January 15. The new baby is the son of Thomas and Emily Lincoln of Rockville, Maryland. Grandbaby number three is due in June. Congratulations and best wishes to all.

## February Art at Penn Place

Penn Place Gallery will continue exhibiting the intriguing work of Charlotte Ghiorse through January 31, so if you haven't yet seen her show, be sure to stop by the gallery at Penn Place, just above the Garrett Park Post Office.

Beginning February 2, the work of Felisa Federman will be exhibited in the gallery. Felisa's series of mixed media artworks include 3D and 2D art with fiber constructions, encaustic, hand-made paper, prints and digital images, objects collaged, and acrylic paint, and reveal her concern about the environment and the "inventory control" of individuality. Her compositions are planned like puzzles to attract viewers' attention, provoke thought, and invite them into a fragile world filled with strong sensory imagery.

Felisa has participated in solo and group exhibitions at art centers, museums, universities, and private galleries in the USA, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Spain, and France, and she has won several awards. Her art is included in the permanent collection at the Latino Museum of Art and History in Los Angeles and the Holocaust Museum in Buenos Aires.

Her work will remain on exhibit until February 28.

Penn Place Gallery is currently accepting applications for our juried Invitational Show. Because the majority of our solo shows highlight the work of Garrett Park artists, the annual Invitational Show is especially designed for non-Garrett Park artists, 18 years and older, who live in Montgomery County and work in acrylics, oils, pastels, photography, watercolor, collage, or other wall-hung art. Work submitted must be new to the gallery, and pieces larger than 36 by 48 will be considered on a space-available basis. A fee of \$25 will apply to accepted work only, and all sales are paid directly to the artists with no percentage collected by the gallery. The artist selected as Best in Show will be awarded with a solo show in the Penn Place Gallery the following year.

The Invitational Show will be held from March 29 to May 2, 2015, and an information card is available at the gallery. Artists interested in submitting work should contact Vickie Baily at [vbaily@mac.com](mailto:vbaily@mac.com) to receive more detailed information.

Reminder ... if you are part of the Facebook community, please be sure to visit and "like" our gallery page at "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.



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## Letter from the Mayor

Happy new year. The coming year will bring changes to the town of Garrett Park as we continue to pursue numerous initiatives intended to enhance our town and make living here and using the town's facilities easier and safer, while respecting the town's historic heritage and unique character, and striving to reduce our joint impact on the environment and our energy usage. I will describe a few of the efforts.

We hope to have our new Web site operating this year. It will be more attractive and intuitive, will be easier to use, and will allow you to interact with town government and your neighbors more directly and with less effort. We plan to make the town calendar simple and easy to view, so that you will have more knowledge of what is going on and how you can participate. There will be special pages for each committee and many major activities. More information about the town will be available because many of the town's electronic files will be accessible. It will be structured to make it easier for you to find the information you want to know about the town, from activities to history to waste pickup.

We hope to be able to allow users to reserve and rent the Town Hall over the Web, including paying for it, and residents may also be able to file requests for construction permits. We will have a secure, password-protected, residents-only section, which will contain a directory of residents in which the entries for each individual will be controlled by that person, as well as a town-only listserv for discussions by town residents. You will also be able to designate what information you would like to receive from the town by choosing topic areas for which you want to receive notices. In all, it will be a better and more useful way to interact with the town.

We will be conducting the engineering on the next phase of our roadway rehabilitation and paving program, and plan to implement the actual construction next year. We have completed the engineering survey of Town Hall and will be sharing that information with you as we determine what we need to do to preserve the historic building, reduce its environmental impact,

enhance its energy use, improve the kitchen and sound system, and repair or replace many of its mechanical and electrical systems and plumbing to make it a more reliable and comfortable facility.

We will develop a multiyear tree plan to determine the current health and safety of town-owned trees. We know that we will need to trim many trees, remove and replace others, and adjust the species mix in order to minimize the potential for trees to drop large limbs or to fall down. We want to do that while maintaining our much-desired tree cover and natural beauty. We hope to complete the plan, discuss it with town residents, make necessary modifications, and begin to implement it this year.

We expect to bring our sidewalk proposal to the 30-percent design point, which will allow all of us to understand what impact the sidewalks might have upon the town. The plan will be widely available, discussions and hearings will be held, and the Town Council will vote upon whether to proceed with the project. If we proceed, we will then obtain clearances from numerous county, state, and federal agencies, which, we are told, could take a year or possibly more. If we decide to move ahead and are very lucky, we might begin construction in calendar 2016.

We are beginning discussion on a townwide comprehensive storm water management plan. Our current storm water management is a haphazard collection of mechanisms developed over the last 100 years. If we are to deal with the potential for more severe storms, we will need to be more deliberate about how we handle storm water.

And there is more. Even in a small town, there is much to do to be prepared for the future. I enjoy our joint process of identifying, creating, and pursuing these initiatives to make our beautiful and wonderful town an even better place to live. You make that possible by giving me this opportunity as mayor to try to make a difference in our town. I plan to have a happy new year doing so. I hope that you have a happy new year as well being a participant in this process.

Peter Benjamin