



Calendar

Fri., Mar. 20	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> in Penn Place lobby	Mon., Apr. 13	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Mon., Mar. 23	Town Council work session on proposed budget, Town Hall, 7:30 pm	Tues., Apr. 14	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Wed., Mar. 25	Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 7:30 pm; nominations for Town Council (see pp 3, 4)	Thurs., Apr. 16	GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Mar. 28	Register to vote in the town election, Town Office, 8 am–1 pm; Large item pickup	Sun., Apr. 19	Archives presentation: “Tales of the Garrett Players,” Town Hall, 2 pm (see p 2)
Sun., Mar. 29	Art at Penn Place Invitational Show, opening reception, 3–5 pm (see p 4)	Wed., Apr. 22	Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 7:30 pm; Candidates’ Forum
Thurs., Apr. 2	GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Fri., Apr. 24	<i>Bugle</i> out in Penn Place lobby
Sat., Apr. 4	Voter registration, Penn Place lobby, 8 am–1 pm	Sat., Apr. 25	Pooch Parade (see p 5)
		Thurs., Apr. 30	GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm
		Mon., May 4	Town Council elections, Penn Place lobby, 7 am–7:30 pm; Reception with the results, Town Hall, 9 pm

As the Snows Recede

The February snows brought out the best in the town maintenance staff; both the Mayor and the Town Administrator, at this month’s Town Council meeting, noted their remarkable dedication throughout the big drop. But now the mind of the town was on spring, and spring cleaning: attending to our streets and buildings in the months to come.

The meeting began with a series of citizens’ presentations on issues related to the proposed sidewalks project. Tony Altar, speaking in opposition, provided the Council with a list of questions he advised them to consider in their deliberations about the sidewalks. Alberto Martinez foretold legal action if the sidewalks were constructed and affected drainage on his property, on which he has spent a lot of money. A lawyer reiterated a request by residents for records on the project, in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act.

Also on the sidewalks project, Dick Pratt made some suggestions about new forms of curbing we might want to look at if the project is approved.

Finally, Kristin Altar addressed the Council to express her concerns about the project and the one-sided view presented in the Mayor’s letter in the last *Bugle*.

After the presentations were completed, the Council voted to introduce the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Capital and Operating Budgets. The Town Council will consider the proposed budget at a work session on March 23 at 7:30 pm, before voting on the finalized budget, planned for the next Council meeting. On the matter of the proposed budget, Charlie Snyder said that the Archives Committee will be making a presentation at the work session on the need to fund at least another year of the services of a professional archivist.

The Mayor then discussed the requirements for providing records on the sidewalks project to the parties who have requested this information under the Maryland Public Information Act.

In his monthly Town Manager’s report, Gene Swearingen said that the current town budget

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looks good. Ongoing items include work on our new Web site (we're putting together responses to a questionnaire from the creators of the site) and an assessment of improvements that need to be made to the Town Hall. Gene's office is indeed very busy with, among other things, the request for information about the proposed sidewalks project.

A final budgetary matter Gene mentioned involved the town's interest in retrofitting our streetlights for greater efficiency. We'd like to install LED lights on Strathmore. These lights use very little electricity. If we proceed (we want to make sure we can find the correct brightness, color, etc.), Pepco will pay more than half the cost of the work. Assuming everything lines up right, we should be able to accomplish this in a few months.

Lots of people stayed after the meeting was adjourned, for friendly chatter about the town, the weather, and other perennial topics.

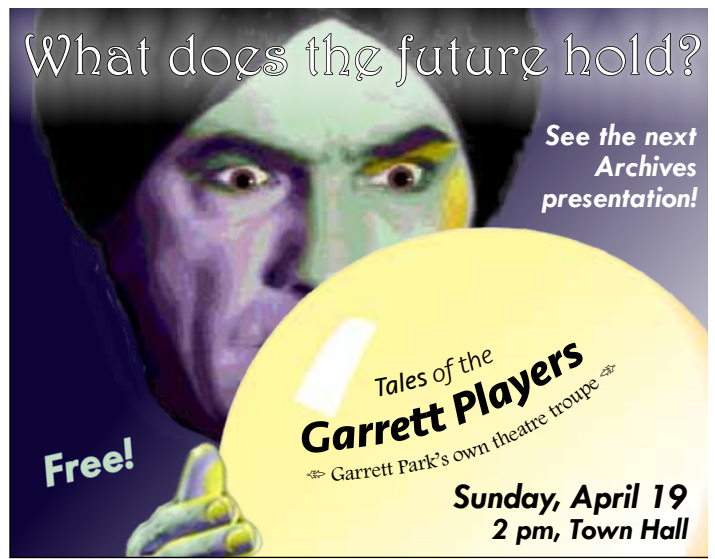
Margaret Soltan

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

An offering to our town staff:

The North winds will blow
And we will have snow
So what will the poor robin do then?
She'll sit in a tree
From where she can see
Poor Butch and Frank
With shovels and plow,
And all their know-how
Pile up the snow.
Till everything is "go"
They've made it easy,
For those that are queasy
To get out on the streets.
So hail again to our faithful crew,
Who always manage to come through,
THANK YOU.

Bonnie Tyler



The Archives Presents

Did you know that Garrett Park once had its own theatrical troupe? And that their productions ranged from classic plays to original musicals, from comedies like *Blithe Spirit* to spine-tingling chillers like *Night Must Fall*?

Find out more about this amusing part of Garrett Park history by spending an hour at Town Hall at 2 pm, Saturday, April 19, when the Archives mounts a behind-the-scenes peek at the old Garrett Players. Two short scenes will book-end the presentation. There will be refreshments, too—all for free. What a deal!

Green Again

Carol Davies-Lillie wrote the following: "The green banner is in celebration of our new dog 'Babe Didrikson.' It is the first dog we have ever had, and she is a true joy. Do you know who Babe Didrikson was? Our two sons, Ted (25) and James (21), didn't have a clue. As a hint: we are a sports loving family. Google 'Babe Didrikson' and read her remarkable and awe-inspiring story."

Anyone else care to join the bandwagon? We are dry as of the June *Bugle*. You can make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer



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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 (\$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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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

Election Day is Monday, May 4. Make a note to vote! Three seats on the Town Council are on the ballot.

Nominations. Nominations for the three open Council seats will be made at the March Citizens Association meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend the meeting, to be held on Wednesday, March 25, at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall.

Candidates' Forum. The Citizens Association will hold a Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, April 22, at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall. All residents are invited to meet and hear the candidates.

Voter registration. The last day for voter registration for the May 2015 town elections is Saturday, April 4. If you need a registration form, please pick one up at the Town Office during office hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, weekdays), the Montgomery County Board of Elections (www.montgomerycountymd.gov), or the Post Office. In order to vote, prior registration is required. All citizen voters must be on the Montgomery County voter rolls and must have registered with their Garrett Park address; if you have questions about voter registration, call the Board of Elections 24-hour Voter Information Line, 240-777-8683. Noncitizen residents must also be registered with the town.

Special voter registration hours will be held at the Post Office lobby on Saturday, March 28, and Saturday, April 4, from 9 am to 1 pm.

Absentee ballots. Regular absentee ballots are available from the Town Office until 4 pm on April 28. After April 27, late absentee ballots will be available at the Town Office, and on Election Day from the Judges of Election at the polls. Voters requiring absentee ballots need to file an application. Applications are available from the Town Office or can be downloaded from www.garrettpark-md.gov. The Clerk or Judges must receive absentee ballots before the polls close at 7:30 pm on Election Day if they are to be counted.

Hours of voting. Voting hours for the election on Monday, May 4, will be 7 am to 7:30 pm, in the Post Office lobby, Penn Place.

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

Fiscal Year 2016 budget. The Proposed FY 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets were introduced at the Town Council regular meeting on March 9. The proposed budgets are on the town Web site for your review, and copies of the proposed budgets are available at the Town Office. The FY 2016 budget leaves the real property tax rate unchanged at 21 cents per \$100 of value and the personal and corporate property tax unchanged

at \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The refuse collection fee is proposed to be reduced to \$333 per household. A work session on the proposed budget will be held on Monday, March 23, at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall.

Large item pickup. Mark your calendars for the next large item pickup on Saturday, March 28.

Yard waste collection. That first sign of spring, weekly yard waste collection, has returned, as it does every March. Yard waste is collected every Monday through the end of October. Use paper bags for yard waste; no plastic, please! Don't forget to bundle brush. If you have branches too large to bundle for yard waste collection, bring them to the curb, butt-end facing the street, and the maintenance staff will come by and chip them. But remember that bamboo cannot be chipped—it jams the chipper and sends out dangerous shards. Please cut it up into 4-foot lengths and either bundle or bag it for regular yard waste collection on Mondays.

Permits. If you are planning any construction this spring, please remember that a Garrett Park building permit 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. Please call the Town Office for a permit application, copies of the town's building ordinance (Chapter 4 of the Town Code), and any other information. The permit application and Town Code are also on the town Web site.

State tax form reminder! When completing your state income tax forms, please remember to write "Garrett Park" in the box labeled "City, Town or Taxing Area." If someone else prepares your taxes, remind them that the box must be filled with "Garrett Park." This insures our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues that the state distributes to Maryland counties, cities, and towns.

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

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

Services for Seniors

Activities of Daily Living <ul style="list-style-type: none">BathingLiftingPersonal Care & HygieneDressingTransferring	What Makes ElderCaring Different? <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	

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ElderCaring MD • Call 301-949-0060 www.eldercaring2.com VA • Call 703-956-3564 www.eldercaringofnova.com
Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Citizen Association News

Next meetings. Nominate candidates for Town Council! At the March 25 meeting, the Citizens Association will accept nominations for the upcoming town elections in May (see p 3).

Save the date! The CA will host the candidates for open Town Council positions at the forum on April 22.

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 2015 annual dues are being collected. 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*. The annual dues are now \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. You can pay by mailing a check 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.

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"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"

Art at Penn Place

During the month of March, be sure to stop by the gallery and take a look at Bruce Cyr's photographs, on exhibit until March 28.

On March 29, Penn Place Gallery will present our annual Invitational Show, exhibited from March 29 to May 2. The Invitational is a group exhibit for artists who do not live in Garrett Park, but who do live in Montgomery County. The Invitational Show will open on March 29 with a reception from 3 to 5 pm at the gallery, catered by Black Market Bistro, and everyone is invited! Artwork to be included in the exhibit will be chosen by Juror Robert Stuart Cohen, who has been an educator, juror, and exhibitor in Montgomery County for over 30 years. While this is only the gallery's third Invitational Exhibit, word is spreading, and our number of entries more than doubled from last year. Juror Cohen will also choose a Best in Show winner to be announced at the March 29 reception, and the winning artist will be awarded a solo show in the gallery in 2016. Please mark your calendars for the March 29 reception, and we look forward to seeing you at the gallery.

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.

Arboretum Committee News

This spring the town proposes to plant 19 understory trees in Porcupine Woods to help revegetate the increasingly open areas caused by deer browse and the removal of exotic invasive species. Two distinct areas are intended to be planted between the main trail and the rear of the Montrose homes that border the park. Stakes were placed earlier this year to show layout and spacing. (Hopefully they are still there!)

All the trees are native species and resistant to deer. They will be purchased from Montgomery County Park and Planning's parks nursery in Derwood, our preferred source for town trees in recent years. Our skilled town crew will do the planting.

On your next stroll through Porcupine Woods, plan to look for

- 5 American hollies, female (red berries),
- 3 red buckeyes (red flowers),
- 3 redbuds (lavender flowers),
- 1 white redbud (unusual white flowers), and
- 7 pawpaws (tropical foliage, fruit described as tasting like a cross between a mango and a banana).

Arboretum Committee

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The *e-Bugle* is available online on the town Web site the Monday after the Town Council meeting.
- ♪ Do you want or need a new recycling tub? The Town Office will be glad to supply you with a bright blue one. Just call the office at 301-933-7488 and let Elizabeth know.
- ♪ Get your surplus things together for the March 28 large item pickup.
- ♪ March 10 was Betty and Cal Baldwin's 64th wedding anniversary. They were married in Chapel Hill while attending the University of North Carolina. They tell the *Bugle* that they have especially enjoyed living in the small

towns of Garrett Park and Bethany Beach with their three daughters Susan, Sally, and Ann. However, they find the current controversy that has developed regarding the construction of additional sidewalks in Garrett Park disturbing. The plan for Oxford Street is opposed by many of its residents. It is a major construction project ... big and messy! They believe there must be a better way.

- ♪ There's a new arrival on Rokeby Avenue. Proud parents Caroline Little and Joshua Jessar announce the birth of a son on March 5 (in the middle of the snow storm!). Both grandmothers are beaming as well.

Women's Club Events

The following is a calendar (subject to change) for the Women's Club and other town events.

Saturday, April 25	Pooch Parade
Saturday, May 9 (am)	Plant Swap
Saturday, May 9 (pm)	Progressive Dinner
Saturday, June 6	Musical
Saturday, September 26	Porches and Patios
Saturday, October 17	Attic-in-the-Street sale
Sunday, December 20	Holiday decorating contest
Monday, January 18	2016 Youth Art Show opening reception

Further details to follow.

Note: The next Town-Wide Yard Sale will be spring 2016.

Pooch Parade

Save the date, Saturday, April 25, for Garrett Park's day to honor the dogs!

This is a fun, low-key event, not Westminster. Come. Enjoy the fact that winter is finally over. Have a dog biscuit.

Details to be posted on the listserv. Arf arf!!



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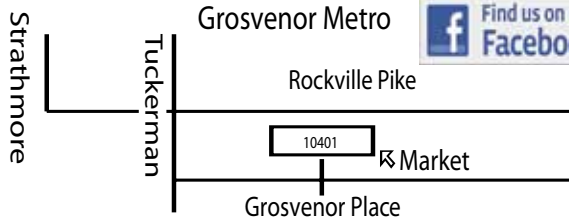
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Letter from the Mayor

It is budget time again, and the Town Council will consider the proposed fiscal year 2016 budget, which covers the period from July 2015 to June 2016, at a work session on March 23 at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall. (Note that this is a change in venue from that previously announced.) I have often said that an organization's budget reflects its priorities and policies, and I believe that this budget does so quite clearly.

Perhaps most important, the proposal is to maintain the property tax rate and the personal property tax rate at their existing levels, while reducing the refuse collection fee. We are receiving less revenue from the state and county than we have historically, but we are able through careful cost control to keep providing the same high levels of services that we have come to expect in our town without raising the tax rates.

Our top priority is to provide those quality services, and almost half of the proposed expenditures are for our dedicated and competent staff. We have a small group of employees, but their productivity level is high, and the quality of what they do and their reliability makes them more effective than many other government work forces. We are very lucky to have such a capable and caring staff. In addition, for the first time in the town's history, the Council is developing and adopting a written personnel policy, so we will have consistent and predictable personnel management. An additional section of these policies will be considered by the Council at the work session on March 23.

We have a multi-year capital investment program which is focused on rehabilitating and enhancing our infrastructure. We recently rebuilt sections of roads and repaved much of our road system. Those portions were the ones with the highest priority repair requirements. Later this year we hope to do the next priority sections. They have been defined and the engineering on them has been completed. We are preparing to advertise for contractors to do the work. We have \$234,000 in the proposed capital budget for this activity. The budget also includes the expendi-

tures on the federally funded sidewalk construction and rehabilitation, should the Council decide to proceed with those projects.

Our arboretum (the whole town is an arboretum) needs substantial work. We have many old trees that are approaching the end of their lives and are becoming potential dangers as their health declines and their chance of falling increases. Recognizing this, the Arboretum Committee is developing a plan to replace trees throughout the town on a schedule that will balance our cherished desire for beautiful and environmentally contributing tree cover with the need to ensure the safety of our people and property. The proposed budget includes substantial sums to begin to implement this plan, which will extend over several years.

We are completing the engineering analysis of the Town Hall, similar to the one done on Penn Place years ago. As was the case with Penn Place, the Town Hall review is indicating the need for substantial work. We are looking at the recommendations by the engineers and discussing various approaches with them. When that is completed and we have a better idea of what our options are, we will be proposing some approaches to rehabilitating Town Hall to the residents for their consideration and comment, and ultimately for Council action. We are continuing the development of our new town Web site.

You can see that there is plenty to do and that we are hard at work trying to implement numerous plans and activities. The budget is the key to what we are proposing to do, and your participation in setting the policies and priorities which will guide the town's future is sought as we develop the budget. Join us at Town Hall at 7:30 pm on March 23 to help us put together next year's budget.

Peter Benjamin

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov
