

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 62

May 2015

No. 5



Calendar

Fri., Apr. 24	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby	Thurs., May 7	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Apr. 25	Pooch Parade, line up at Kenilworth and Strathmore, 10 am (see p 4)	Sat., May 9	Plant swap, Penn Place basketball courts, 10 am; Progressive Dinner, evening (see p 4)
Thurs., Apr. 30	Meeting of Parks and Open Space Committee, Town Office, 7:30 pm (see p 2); GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun., May 10	Meet the Artist reception, Penn Place Gallery, 3 to 5 pm (see p 5)
Fri., May 1	Film Society, <i>The Italian Job</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7, film 8 pm (see p 2)	Mon., May 11	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sun., May 3	New exhibit, Penn Place Gallery, Farhad Heidarian (see p 5)	Tues., May 12	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Mon., May 4	Voting for town election, Post Office lobby, 7 am–7:30 pm (see candidates' statements, pp 8–11); swearing-in party, Town Hall, 9 pm, results around 9:30 pm (hopefully)	Sun., May 17	Book party for Barbara Shidler, Garrett Park Poet Laureate, Town Hall, 3 pm
		Thurs., May 21	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
		Fri., May 22	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place lobby
		Sat., May 23	Pool opens, 10 am
		Mon., May 25	Memorial Day; <i>no trash collection</i>

Splashdown at Penn Place

Those looking for yet another tired reference to April being the cruelest month will need to look elsewhere. Unless you think Town Manager Gene Swearingen being absent for April's meeting of the Town Council because (explained the Mayor) his flight was cancelled and he was stranded "somewhere between here and Vermont" rises to the level of "cruel."

There being no presentations from residents (of whom there were quite a number who were there simply to listen and make helpful comments), the Council began by passing unanimously the 2016 capital and operating budgets. Kacky Chantry pointed out that the budget should reflect the addition of a small increase to the archives budget, as well as the insertion of a training budget of \$2,000 for the town staff, and these two items were also passed.

The Council then approved the election judges appointed to two-year terms by the Mayor. They are Suzanne Grefsheim, Joanne Schmader, and Cliff Tarpy.

Peter Benjamin thanked Councilmember Tara Flynn for all her work on formalizing town employee policies. "It's the first time in the history of this town that we have a written policy regarding what's expected of town staff, how we recruit people, and so forth."

Tara said that it's also about "what they can expect from us, and in particular how we can make sure that everyone's protected in knowing what the playing field is."

She went on to note that compiling these policies was a collective effort in which Phil Schulp was a big contributor. "I hope that this is viewed as a fair document and one that lays out expectations. It's also envisioned to be a living, zzz breathing document that we will return to if there are things that we didn't anticipate ... which there will be. So if we've gotten something wrong, we will go back to it."

The personnel policy was unanimously approved.

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There ensued discussion, led by Council-member Hans Wegner, about the possibility of putting two additional stop signs at the corner of Kenilworth and Oxford, near Garrett Park Elementary School.

Hans explained that it's a "children's safety issue." There have been complaints that some people ignore both the existing stop signs and the zebra crossing. Indeed the part of Kenilworth just before the right turn to the school is apparently somewhat out of control at certain hours.

The proposal is to put additional signs on Kenilworth in the direction of the school, so that drivers are reminded again of the need to stop when pedestrians are approaching or leaving the school. We're looking into whether we can take this decision out of the ordinance process and make it part of the responsibility of the Mayor and Town Manager.

Joanna Welch asked about the possibility of putting a stop sign in the middle of the street; Hans suggested also maybe a stop line.

Former Mayor Chris Keller said that we might want to involve Dick Pratt in this decision, since it's an offset intersection, which creates complexities.

The Mayor concluded by saying that we look forward to citizen input and suggestions.

With the Town Manager flailing around somewhere between Vermont and Garrett Park, the Mayor gave his report for him:

We're doing pretty well, with revenues coming in stronger than expected. We're getting substantially more in income taxes than we'd budgeted for, and property taxes are doing reasonably well too. In short, the numbers that are in the budget are probably more conservative than they need to be.

On expenses, it's the same kind of picture; we're below target. "We're doing pretty well on not spending money we don't have to spend." (How un-American.)

The erosion problem in Porcupine Woods continues. The solution is to plant trees, and the town is busy thinking about types and locations for a spring planting.

The streetlights on Strathmore have been another problem, stemming from the way they were originally wired, plus some damage. At this point, all of them have been either rewired or replaced. In the longer term, we want to replace the lights with LEDs, which will be far more energy efficient.

On a darker note, the bathrooms on the main floor in Penn Place will be undergoing repairs. We're getting rid of the linoleum tiles, which keep rotting and turning various colors. We'll replace them with ceramic tiles.

"It's a problem," observed the Mayor, "particularly in the men's room. Men tend to splash on the floor."

Margaret Soltan

GPFS: *The Italian Job* (1969)

On May 1 at 8 pm, the Garrett Park Film Society will show the original British version of *The Italian Job* (rated G), the film that made Mini Coopers famous. Starring Michael Caine and Noel Coward, with Benny Hill in a supporting role, the film is both a comedy and a thriller and just great fun. It is all in the timing when planning the perfect heist, especially when the Mafia is involved, and *The Italian Job's* getaway is "a work of art."

Dinner is served at 7 pm and will feature Italian food, in keeping with the setting of the film. For menu details, see the poster in Post Office or the GarrettParkneighbors listserv the week of April 26.

Admission to the film is free to GPFS members, or \$5 per person, \$10 per family at the door. Dinner is usually \$10 per person (\$5 per child 11 or under), with dessert extra. Soda, bottled water, beer, and wine are on offer at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5.

Hope to see you at the Town Hall!

POSCO Meeting

The Parks and Open Space Committee (POSCO) will meet on Thursday, April 30, at 7:30 pm in the Town Office (located on the third floor of Penn Place). All residents are welcome to attend. Committee members will discuss the current condition of open spaces in town, particularly Wells Park.

POSCO's mission is to review the condition and appropriateness of town parks and open space concordant with town history, characteristics, and needs, and to advise the Mayor and Town Council about related items including, but not limited to, parks, open spaces, playgrounds, park and playground equipment, potential improvements, and results of research.

Phil Schulp, Council Liaison to POSCO

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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Treasurer: Bridgett Silverman
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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 Notes

Election Day is Monday, May 4. Please remember to vote! Three seats on the Town Council are on the ballot.

Candidates. Candidates for the three Council positions are Art Bennett, Kacky Chantry, Phil Schulp, and Joanna Welch.

Candidates Forum. The Citizens Association is scheduled to hold a Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, April 22, at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall. We hope all residents could attend to meet and hear the candidates.

Absentee ballots. Qualified voters who are unable to come to the polls on the day of the election may apply to the Town Office for an absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots are available from the Town Office during regular office hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm). Voters, or their agents, who intend to apply for an absentee ballot should call or stop by the Town Office to get information on the absentee ballot process. On Election Day, May 4, applications for absentee ballots are available from the Judges of Election at the polls. No absentee ballot received after 7:30 pm on Election Day will be opened and counted.

Judges of Election. Suzanne Grefsheim, Joanne Schmader, and Cliff Tarpy will serve as Judges, with Poll Workers assisting them throughout the day.

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 the election results are announced. The evening will include a swearing-in ceremony and reception, which starts at 9 pm. We expect the results will be available by 9:30 pm, so plan to come and greet the newly elected Councilmembers.

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. The FY 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets were approved at the Town Council regular meeting on April 13. The approved budgets are on the town Web site for your review, and copies of the budgets are avail-

able 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 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The refuse collection fee is proposed to be reduced to \$333 per household.

WSSC meeting. County Council member Nancy Floreen scheduled a meeting with WSSC representatives at 7:30 pm on Thursday, April 23, at the Garrett Park Town Hall to discuss water bills and discoloration issues. You can contact her office with your specific issues so they can be discussed at the meeting.

Street cleaning. Please watch the town Web site for dates and times for the upcoming street cleaning in late April or early May. We will ask that you move your cars off the streets so that the cleaning can extend from curb to curb.

Reminders—yard waste collection. 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; the maintenance staff will come by and chip them.

Also 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 to do 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.

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

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager



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Citizen Association News

Candidates for Town Council. At the April 22 meeting, the Citizens Association hosted a forum for Town Council candidates. Please watch the listserv and Post Office for announcements of an event in May that has yet to be decided.

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. The annual dues are now \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. These dues allow the Citizens Association to keep up the quality of programming and support the Bugle. Please mail dues to us at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. Our neighbors include people with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv, an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services. 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.

Progressive Dinner May 9

Winter has thawed (finally!) and spring has sprung! Time to join your neighbors for some annual fun. Stroll the streets of scenic Garrett Park, dining from house to house.

Pick up registration forms at the Post Office (electronic versions are available on the GarrettParkneighbors listserv).

If you have any questions, contact me by phone or e-mail.

Lillian Del Priore

Local Girl Scouts Earn Award

Troop 4964, which is associated with Garrett Park Elementary School, held a diaper drive in front of the PO last fall on behalf of the DC Diaper Bank, which serves organizations throughout the region, including Montgomery County. Kelly Opipari and Tara Flynn are the troop leaders. The troop wrote and submitted this article.

We are 5th grade Junior Girl Scout Troop 4964. We recently raised \$789 and 2,800 diapers to give to the DC Diaper Bank. The DC Diaper Bank is an organization that collects diapers and money to buy diapers for people that have to make the choice between diapers for their kids and food. We did this project to earn our Bronze Award, an important award for Juniors. To get our Bronze Award, we had to do a community service project. We chose this one because we would really see the effect and how it changes people's lives. We'd like to thank all the people that donated diapers and money, and our wonderful troop leaders for helping us reach our goal!

Troop 4964

Calling All Pooches

Come to a howling good time! Bring your humans; there will be treats for all!

This year's annual Garrett Park Pooch Parade is Saturday, April 25. The parade lines up at 10 am at the corner of Kenilworth and Strathmore (near 10909 Kenilworth). Walk to the Penn Place basketball court (adjacent to the PO).

This year's awards categories are as follows:

Best Dog Pair/Group	Most Colorful
Best Dressed Dog	Most Mysterious Heritage
Best Senior Dog	Most Obedient
Best Trick	Softest Fur
Best Vocal Performance	Wiggliest Butt (the dog)
Least Obedient	

Questions? Want to help? Please contact Jean Horan at philpub1@aol.com. (This event is sponsored by the GP Women's Club.)

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The *e-Bugle* is available online on the town Web site the Monday after the Town Council meeting.
- ♪ Congratulations to Divane Pittman, our postmaster (although she often refers to herself as postmistress), who celebrated 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service this past Monday.
- ♪ Nancy Schwartz sounds a sad note: "The town has lost the first of its signature Chevy Houses—4423 Strathmore. The 39 small houses with their murphy bed niches and distinctive porches were built in the mid-1920s. They represented the beginnings of automobile commuting and the move to greater home ownership, even for the less well-to-do. The

4M company that built and marketed them came up with the original gimmick of offering the houses with a built-in radio and a Chevrolet in the garage, hence the name. The houses were the next major era of construction in Garrett Park after the big Victorians. So many new houses and families brought changes to our little town, including WSSC water and sewer, street signs and numbers, the 10-foot side yard setback, and a new school. Over the years, these small houses have been altered and enlarged in a myriad of ways, but until a few weeks ago, none had been completely lost. They may not be grand, but they are a very special and unique part of Garrett Park history. It is sad to lose one."

Art at Penn Place

What a wonderful time we had at the Penn Place Gallery Invitational Opening! Every inch of the gallery was filled with enthusiastic artists and friends, all anxiously awaiting the decision of our juror, Robert Cohen. Thank you, Mr. Cohen, for your thoughtful choices—and thank you, Black Market Bistro, for the delicious food you prepared for the event.

Congratulations to Jennifer Kahn Barlow, for winning "Best-in-Show" for her painting, "Begonia escargot." Congratulations also to Ann Zahn, who won second place for her three-plate etching, "100 Views of Home #21," and to Andrew Wohn, who took third place for his photograph, "Twine." All 20 artists chosen to show at the Invitational received praise for their outstanding work. If you missed the opening celebration, be sure to stop by the gallery any day of the week between now and May 2 to view this special exhibit!

Our May artist is Garrett Park's Farhad Heidarian. Farhad discovered his passion for art as a child in his grandfather's home painting studio. He later studied painting and sculpture at the University of Texas, and also attended classes at Ohio State University, the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore, and the Corcoran College of Art.

Farhad is drawn toward modern art, especially New York Abstract Expressionism, and seeks the surreal quality and revolutionary ideas of this style in his own work. He combines oriental art with abstract imagery, and frequently uses symmetry and stereo imagery in his digital creations. Farhad's intent is "to create metaphors of the mystery of life and the subconscious, and to depict images beyond what appear to be."

Be sure to stop by the gallery to see Farhad's exhibit from May 3 to 30, and join us at his Meet the Artist reception on May 10 from 3 to 5 pm.

Green Again

Michael and Jean Starr are this month's "green" donors. They have helped us through the years in our quest to keep the *Bugle's* banner green. We thank them.

Anyone else care to join the bandwagon? We are painted up to the September *Bugle*. You can make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 (which will help cover some of the fun things in town throughout the year), and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

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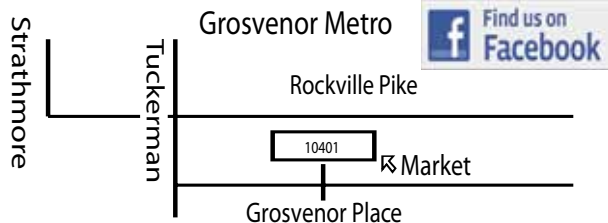
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Donations Asked

Our local postal worker, Donna Licorish, needs our help with medical leave expenses. She was in a car accident last fall and while recuperating slipped and broke her ankle. Her ankle is not healing, and she needs surgery. She has no paid leave left and needs 8 weeks to recuperate after surgery. Working on her feet every day is painful, but she is diligent about coming to the Post Office to serve us every day. Any amount you can give to help Donna, a 15-year veteran of the Post Office, on the road to recovery and back on her feet without pain would be greatly appreciated.

For the last few years I have been using the Garrett Park Post Office frequently and have gotten to know both of our counter employees, Donna and Divane. I started a Go Fund Me account for Donna: www.gofundme.com/Donna-Medical

I sincerely hope you will join me in showing her she is an appreciated part of *our* community. Thank you.

Lynette Cheo
(a 16-year resident of Kensington)

On the Issue of the Proposed Sidewalks

The town's application in January 2013 for a state grant to build sidewalks in some town streets was apparently made in private by a handful of advocates. The grant application also appeared to contain misleading information: (a) Of the 162 children cited as benefiting from the proposed sidewalks, only a maximum of 7 walked to school at one time or another on Oxford Street, according to our actual 3-day traffic count in November 2013. (b) The one child traffic fatality cited in the application happened one November evening in 2006 on Strathmore Avenue (MD 547), which is actually a busy state through road with existing sidewalks.

No objective study of traffic on affected streets was carried out before the decision to build sidewalks was made. Once the grant was obtained, the town has consistently refused to address continued citizens' objections or to consider alternatives. The town set up a Sidewalk Advisory Committee whose sole purpose is to implement the construction of sidewalks and not to consider alternatives, as required by law.

Garrett Park is a historic district protected by state and federal laws. On November 25, 2013, Mr. Rodney Little, State Historic Preservation Officer, wrote to the Town Manager to express concerns about "the impact of such construction on the character of the Garrett Park Historic District" and to set forth a clear alternative roadmap for the town to follow.

Furthermore, the speed limit in Garrett Park is 20 miles per hour, which is well below the "25

miles per hour" mentioned in the Safe-Route-To-School (SRTS) Web site as safe speed not requiring sidewalks.

Oxford Street, where our family has lived since 1971, has very little vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Both our son, and later, our granddaughter, and other neighborhood children walked to Garrett Park Elementary over the years without encountering any safety problems.

Safety will become an issue if sidewalks are constructed. More cars will be parked in the street due to loss of driveway space. As a result, emergency vehicles will have more difficulty navigating the already narrow street.

The construction of sidewalks will also have a detrimental impact on our environment with beautiful trees and plantings lining both sides of Oxford and providing a park-like setting, particularly in the spring and summer.

One of the primary reasons the town is included in the National Register of Historic Places is certainly due to this quiet rural feel with tree-lined streets. The construction of unnecessary sidewalks will do damage to our nice environment, which has existed for well over a hundred years, for no useful purpose.

In closing, to quote Alfred Adler, a well-known psychologist: "A lie would have no sense unless the truth were felt to be dangerous."

Nguyen Nhan
Nguyen Minh Chau

Loss of a Chevy House

Garrett Park has always loved its iconic "Chevy Houses"—the small bungalows built here during the 1920's. The Chevy-in-the-garage story is fun to relate, and we cherish the homes enough that a stylized Chevy House graces the official town logo. So it came as a particular disappointment to learn that the first demolition of a Chevy House in Garrett Park occurred recently, apparently without the knowledge or concern of our elected representatives.

Since the 1990's the town's demolition ordinance requires certain procedural steps such as notice and hearing before demolition of a house. The law is limited, but typically those requirements have given the town leverage to ask other things of developers: access by the town's Historic Preservation Committee to take photos, salvage of reusable materials, etc. The most significant benefit of the law is that it prevents the disappearance of a home without notice. But that is precisely what happened to the Chevy House at 4423 Strathmore.

Efforts to ascertain from the town the reasons that the property did not require a demolition permit have not yielded a definitive answer.

(continued next page)

Letters to the Editor (cont'd)

It may have something to do with the fact that the replacement structure is built partially on the older foundation. But the town's law is clear that a permit is required for demolition unless it is limited to "Partial demolition... incidental to remodeling," which is certainly not the case with the construction of a wholly new structure, four times the size of the lost Chevy House at 4423 Strathmore. Nary a splinter of the original house remains. Was the town's failure to require a demolition permit attributable to a strained, overly permissive interpretation of a town law

that was manifestly intended to produce a different result?

The last resident of the home at 4423 was Trudy Morse, who died in 2013 after a long, productive and event-filled life. Trudy was described as a "force of nature"—an individual who demonstrably cared about everything in the world around her. I think she would be sad that the town let her abode slide away, unnoticed and unlamented as the first Chevy House lost in Garrett Park.

Chris Keller

Obituaries

Dolores Floraine Harris

Dolores Harris (July 9, 1931, to March 26, 2015) loved her family with all her heart. They knew her as Mom, Nana, Aunt, sister, and she was the beloved wife of Gene, who was by her side for 63 years. Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, she lived most of her life in Garrett Park. Her early career as a secretary ended when, on her lunch break, she delivered her first child, Michael. A few years later came Kevin, then Brian, Kathy, Lisa, and last but not least, David. A few years later she started working as a crossing guard and loved directing all the children as they walked to and from Garrett Park Elementary School. Later, she managed the Town Hall and followed her passion for shopping, taking a position at Bloomingdale's, where she became friends with a coworker who took her on the trip of a lifetime—to Italy! She loved to travel and vacationed often in New England and Williamsburg, Virginia, traveling by motor home with Gene and their friends. She created an incredible collection of 18th and 19th century ironstone dishes, which she loved to display in her retirement home near Keedysville, Maryland. She adored her 7 grandchildren, Elizabeth, Grace, Emily, Sarah, Thomas, Joshua, and Adam, and her great-grandchild, Emmett.



of SWEA (Swedish Women's Educational Assoc.), she served on the Board for many years and also volunteered as secretary for one year with the American-Scandinavian Association.

Ulla was very active in the social life of Garrett Park during the 50 years she lived here. She had many friends throughout Garrett Park, several of whom celebrated New Year's Eve together for decades. She worked on the Garrett Park Senior Committee for many years and was an active member of the Lunch Bunch, which meets at the Town Hall once a month. Her rock garden on the corner of Oxford and Clermont streets was beloved by many neighbors.

Ulla traveled much of the world throughout her life and was an ardent student and lover of nature, which she captured and expressed in her watercolor paintings. She learned watercolor as a painting student of Martha Siegel.

Survivors include her three children, Peter Lustig of Washington, DC; Ingrid Lustig of Bend, Oregon; Christine Shreves of Herndon, Virginia; her son-in-law Leon Shreves; four stepchildren; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the chapel at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Church on May 9 at 2 pm. A reception will immediately follow.

Ulla-Britta Marianne Lustig

Ulla Lustig, 93, died on March 12 in Bend, Oregon, where she was living with her daughter. A native of Sweden, Ulla moved with her family to the United States in 1953. She was raised and educated in Stockholm. In 1949 she moved to Geneva, Switzerland, to work at the U.N. International Refugee Organization, where she met her husband, Theodore (Ted) Lustig. They were married in 1950, and after Ted's death in 2001 she married Walter (Nick) Farr, who died in May 2014.

Ulla worked for 17 years attached to the staff of the Science Counselor of the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, DC, and retired in 1986. A long-time member of the Washington chapter

Marguerite Myers Murray

Marguerite Murray died March 16 at age 97 after a brief illness. She was predeceased by her husband of 53 years, James J. Murray; her twin brother, Ellsworth (Deet) Myers; her sister, Frances Myers Newhouse; and son-in-law, John C. Lapp. She is survived by daughter Jennifer M. Lapp, with whom she lived in Alexandria, Virginia; her son, Alan C. Murray and daughter-in-law, Linda, of Seattle; her daughter, Priscilla P. Murray and son-in-law, Thomas Dieterich, of Portland, Oregon; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Also surviving is her beloved cat, Tommy.



Obituaries (cont'd)

Marguerite was born December 21, 1917, in Chicago and grew up in Oak Park. She attended Rockford College, followed by Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon), receiving her master's degree in library science. In 1940 she became a children's librarian in the DC Public Libraries. A war bride, she started a family in 1946, built a house and moved to Garrett Park in 1949, followed by two more children in 1950 and 1952. She substituted at Garrett Park Elementary, belonged to the Women's Club, and when the school expanded in 1956, outfitted a small room as a library and started a collection of books.

Returning to work full time in 1957, two years as a teacher, and then a school librarian, she was asked to assist in improving the libraries with research and media access. After 10 years Marguerite moved to the Montgomery County Public Libraries, first as Assistant Coordinator for Children's Services and then as Coordinator. This was an exciting time for her, and she and her staff started a number of programs for children that were well received. She also taught several classes in library science, both at the University of Maryland and at George Mason University. She retired after 10 years in the library system.

In 1966 Marguerite and Jim built a cottage on the Cacapon River in West Virginia, and many wonderful weekends were spent there relaxing. In retirement Marguerite took up writing (she published four children's books), watercolors, weaving, knitting, and gardening. Summering at their home in Lockeport, Nova Scotia, was a highlight of her life, from 1976 to 2013, first with her husband and then with family and friends.

Decreased mobility caused by macular degeneration and increasing deafness limited her ability to travel, but she listened to books on tape provided by the Access Services of Fairfax

County and took great joy in discussing them. Her monthly visits to her "Bookies" book group were a favorite in her life. Marguerite and Jim Murray were charter members of Cedar Lane Unitarian Church; after moving to the Alexandria area in 2004, she joined the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, where she found a new circle of close friends, and she remained active with the "E.T.s" (Every Thursday) group almost to the end of her life. She had wonderful caregivers from Old Dominion Home Care, especially Kathy and Egii, who became part of the family.

A memorial service for Marguerite will be held Sunday, June 14, at 3 pm at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, VA 22307.

If you care to make a memorial donation, we ask that you make it "in memory of Marguerite Murray" and send it to Fairfax Library Foundation, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 329, Fairfax, VA 22035.

George Thomas Paine

Former Garrett Park resident George Paine died on March 25. Born on January 9, 1953, George moved to Garrett Park in 1982 with his wife Linda. During the 6 years he lived here, George was an active community member, including serving a term as president of the Citizens Association. He was known as George Paine the Younger so he would not be confused with the legendary Town Councilmember and Mayor George Payne. His son Taunton was born during the years George lived in Garrett Park. After his divorce, George moved to Washington Grove so he could continue to live near his beloved trains. George served on the Washington Grove Town Council and was active in many Washington Grove events. He died following a long illness.

Candidates' Statements

The following statements were received from candidates for the Town Council.

Art Bennett

I hope you will consider me when you vote on May 4. By way of introduction, my wife Gerilee and I have lived on Keswick Street in Garrett Park since late 1996. Our three children have attended both the Garrett Park Nursery School as well as Garrett Park Elementary. Professionally, I work at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, where I serve as the Institute's Ethics Counselor. Recently, I have been active with the town's working group investigating possible changes to our street parking and traffic rules. Some of my most satisfying experiences while living here came during the years I served on the

Town Council from 2000 to 2006. I look forward to serving you again in this capacity.

During my tenure on the Council, I worked with residents, other Councilmembers and mayors on a number of significant projects in town: renovation of the Town Hall and Penn Place, installation of new street lights throughout town (including the first—and only—traffic light at the Strathmore/Kenilworth intersection), and the redesign and reconstruction of Strathmore Avenue, which included better lighting, improved cross walks, and a new sidewalk along the southern length of the street. With each of these projects, we worked to improve the safety and convenience of town residents, while also working to ensure that they would not fundamentally change either the overall streetscapes or the basic

Candidates' Statements (cont'd)

nature of our community. Each of these projects brought lively debate among residents. Looking back at those debates, I believe they improved the final products, which have all been positive additions and improvements to our town.

I mention these because once again, the Town Council is considering an infrastructure project that will bring some change to our community—the repair and replacement of the sidewalk along Clermont Avenue as well as installation of new sidewalks along Kenilworth Avenue and Oxford Street. I support this project in concept—we are still, after all, without a final design plan. While I believe this project is consistent with those I mentioned before, any vote I cast on this and other future projects will be made after careful consideration of the opinions of town residents, our Mayor, and fellow Councilmembers.

That said, my interest in serving on the Council extends beyond the question of sidewalks. As Mayor Benjamin recently wrote in the *Bugle*, the Town Hall is again in need of repairs—a testament to the constant and varied use the building provides us. Whatever decisions are made in terms of renovation and repair, I will work closely with residents and the Council to make sure that it continues to be a vibrant center for our community.

Another important issue which I hope to focus on is the planned replacement of street trees. As Mayor Benjamin wrote, a number of older trees are nearing the end of their lives—this is especially true on Keswick Street, where we have lost two very large tulip poplars in recent years. As he noted, the Arboretum Committee is developing a multi-year removal and replacement plan. If elected, I hope to expand the involvement of residents in this, because as we replace trees, we have an opportunity to consider the use of town rights-of-way to enhance not only our arboretum, but also to improve street parking and driveway options for residents.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve you again and work respectfully and collaboratively to make sure Garrett Park remains our wonderful place to live. Please do vote in our upcoming elections, and I thank you for your support.

Kathryn (Kacky) Chantry (Incumbent)

I was honored to be nominated for a second term on the Town Council by members of the Archives Advisory Board. I will be honored to serve again and ask for your vote on May 4.

As I reflect on my time as a first-term Councilmember, I can't help but be reminded of a quote by Henry Ford, who said: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is a success." I believe these elements are fundamental to achieving success when serving on the Council.

This is perhaps best demonstrated when I persevered on behalf of the Archives Advisory Board to justify and negotiate for budget increases to the Town Archives. By bringing together concerned citizens and working with my colleagues on the Council, I was able to win the Council's support to increase the Archives budget, thereby helping to keep the precious history of our town alive and appropriately preserved. It is a very gratifying feeling to know that listening to different viewpoints, working through issues, and allowing for compromise can bring forth positive results.

During my first term, I also volunteered to lead the effort to help the Town Office modernize the Garrett Park Web site. I brought together a group of dedicated town residents to build upon the initial work begun by former Councilmembers. This was a dynamic team with many different viewpoints and varied opinions about what made for an optimum Web site. Nevertheless, we stayed the course, working together to produce contract specifications for bids and to review vendors' proposals that would ultimately help the Town Office award the winning contract for a new town Web site.

In addition to the Archives and the town Web site, I also have been the liaison for the Arboretum Committee, Historic Preservation Committee, and the Garrett Park Conservation Trust. These are areas I would like to get more involved in during my second term. For example, the Arboretum Committee is developing a long-term tree plan that will need sufficient funds in order to bear fruit (no pun intended!). The Historic Preservation Committee helps us balance town progress with town heritage, and the Garrett Park Conservation Trust helps us preserve open space in and around the town through the promotion of conservation easements and land trusts. I see these three groups as integral to helping us retain the authentic look and feel of our town, avoid house-crowding, and ensure ample room for our natural arboretum—not just above our heads but under our feet as well!

If I am elected again, I will bring the same energy and consensus-building to reach win-win solutions. With revenue projections for the town budget on a decrease, and costly projects yet to be started (LED street lighting, Town Hall renovations, sidewalks, curb repairs, tree planting, etc.), it is more important than ever that we come together, talk constructively with one another, listen objectively to different viewpoints, and negotiate in good faith. After all, only by working together can we succeed in achieving solutions that are in the best interests of our town.

Remember to vote on May 4, and please vote for me to continue working for Garrett Park. Thank you!

Phil Schulp (Incumbent)

I'm Phil Schulp. Vote for me to represent you again as a Garrett Park Councilmember.

I am honored to have been nominated again to serve a fourth term on the Garrett Park Town Council. My years of experience working collaboratively with fellow Councilmembers, coupled with a common-sense approach to problem solving, have served all citizens of Garrett Park well. When I first ran for office, I said that local government should be clear, concise, and accountable to the citizens. I continue to follow this guiding principle. I ask for your vote on Monday, May 4.

As your Councilmember, I have been part of the following accomplishments:

Following the award of the Federal Safe Routes to School Grant (administered by the state of Maryland), I have evaluated the information as the Council has received it. Once the project reaches the 30 percent stage, I will be eager to review the design and hear what residents have to say. The town has an obligation to evaluate the project and its potential benefits as well as considering alternative safety solutions. During this review process, I intend to keep an open mind as the Council reviews the information. According to the documentation the Council has received to date, the grant is expected to cover 100 percent of the project. I do not believe the town should spend money in the event that estimated costs significantly exceed grant funding.

Recognizing that the town had no formal personnel and employment guidelines, I proposed and worked with Councilmember Flynn to prepare comprehensive policies for staff. The policies in this new handbook standardize compensation (e.g., comp time and overtime) and outline rules and regulations for all employees.

As part of the 2013/14 Council, I assisted to define and pass updated land use and building codes as a result of recommendations of a citizen task force. This clarified the town's building code and aligned it with Montgomery County code.

I participated in the hiring decision of Gene Swearingen, Town Manager.

I championed the idea that we need a formal employee safety program. As a result, I prepared an initial evaluation of minimum safety equipment that each town employee must be provided with. Working with Town Manager Swearingen, I am evaluating employee training programs that will best meet our needs at minimal cost.

As Council liaison, I provided guidance and support to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee (POSCO).

As liaison to the Garrett Park Swimming Pool Association, I provided historical documentation to the pool's board of directors as they prepared

for a hearing with the Montgomery County Board of Appeals.

As your neighbor, I have

- directed traffic during July 4th parades, GPES International Night events, and Pooch parades;
- worked with neighbor Bob Flanders to locate and connect an emergency generator to power the pool during the July 4, 2012, power outage, and during the cold months, moved and set up generators in town for neighbors in need; and
- judged many parade and pie contests willingly!

In spring 2004, my wife Jean Horan, daughter Gianna (age 12 and a 6th grader at Tilden Middle School), and I moved to Garrett Park. We love our home that borders the train tracks. As an electrical engineer working at an international firm that builds passenger railroad cars, there's nothing better than looking out our living room window to watch the next train roll by.

I ask for your vote and I look forward to representing your interests for the next two years. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail at phil-pub1@aol.com, or in person, if you would like to share your views on living in Garrett Park.

Joanna Welch (Incumbent)

My family has called Garrett Park home since spring 2006. For the first four years, it was just Darren and me at 11111 Kenilworth Avenue. Ellie joined us in 2010 and Henry in 2013—just three months before I was first honored with the chance to serve on the Town Council. I hope I've earned your confidence and your vote for a second term.

I pride myself on being deliberate and open-minded in my work on the Town Council. This approach to decision-making is what makes me an ideal Councilmember. It means I take pride in withholding my judgment until I've heard from the various stakeholders on an issue. It means I try not to become entrenched in my own ideas and am willing to be persuaded when circumstances change. And it means I enjoy being stopped for a quick business chat when I'm walking around town with my kids.

My kids—they're who I think about when I make my decisions. Not because everything in town needs to have the best interest of the elementary set in mind, but because they remind me that I want Garrett Park to be a stronger and more vibrant place when my time here ends (may that be another 40 years).

Thinking about the future doesn't mean ignoring history. And Garrett Park has a wonderful history that many of us have worked hard to preserve. My small piece of the historic preservation puzzle has actually been my biggest responsibility.

Candidates' Statements (cont'd)

ity over the last year: a multi-year renovation of historic Town Hall. I'm nearing completion of the first phase: gathering information about the current state of the property. I hope for a summer 2015 start to phase two: engaging the town, developing a design, and finding a source of funds. That leaves phase three: construction, which I'd love to begin in early 2017. This timeline reflects my belief that big projects deserve thorough and thoughtful data-based deliberation. And I'd appreciate the opportunity to see it through.

Other noteworthy activities:

- Serving as liaison to the Setback Advisory Committee and Garrett Park Nursery School

- Working with Montgomery County Parks to renovate Wells Park
- Working with Councilmember Hans Wegner to re-examine town parking and traffic laws
- Sponsored a 2014 revision to the Town Hall Rental Policy to institute a no-refund policy for short-notice cancellations
- Volunteered to help Town Manager Gene Swearingen gain Council adoption of the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2013 that makes Garrett Park eligible for pre- and post-disaster grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Letter from the Mayor

Garrett Park is showing off its finest spring finery, and a more gentle weather pattern seems to be here at least for a while. Four candidates are running for three seats on the Town Council, with the election taking place on Monday, May 4. The statements by the candidates are in this issue of the *Bugle*, and the Candidates' Forum was on April 22. I hope that you will take some time to read the statements, perhaps have the opportunity to talk to some of the candidates (many of whom will be meeting voters outside Penn Place on Saturday mornings), and most important, vote on May 4. The winning three candidates will be sworn in at the Town Hall that evening.

As a result of continuing concerns about the safety of children going to school who cross Kenilworth at the intersection with Oxford, the Council is exploring alternative traffic control measures at that location. Specifically, since there seem to be cars that move through the intersection quickly and refuse to stop for children in or preparing to enter the crosswalk, the possibility of putting a stop sign for Kenilworth southbound traffic is being considered. We would like to hear your views on this subject, either on the neighbors listserv or by e-mail to the Council at mayor-andtowncouncil@comcast.net. You can also talk to any Councilmember or to me, and the issue will be on the agenda again at an upcoming Council meeting.

A related item that came up at the most recent Council meeting at which the issue of safety at the Kenilworth and Oxford intersection was discussed was a proposal to build a road parallel to Kenilworth across Holy Cross property from the intersection of Strathmore and Flanders to the elementary school, thereby reducing traffic on Kenilworth going to and from the school. A

citizen stated that the county had already agreed informally to such a proposal and was only awaiting a request from the Town of Garrett Park to move forward on the project. After the meeting I talked directly to the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, and he indicated that he was unaware of any such informal agreement and expressed no interest in such a project.

You may have noticed the markers along the proposed route of the sidewalk project. These show the limit of the town-owned right of way which is available for sidewalk construction. They do not show the location of a possible future sidewalk. They do make clear that there is plenty of room to build a four-foot-wide sidewalk without requiring the removal of significant trees. If the project moves forward, the town is committed to minimizing the impact on plants and hardscape placed in the right of way by adjoining property owners.

The new town Web site design is moving forward as we create another way for you to get information about town activities, to communicate with your neighbors, to tell the town about your needs, to look up resident contact information, to rent the Town Hall, and perform many other functions. We continue to be busy at these and other projects as we try to provide the services that make Garrett Park so attractive to all of us. We look forward to working with the Councilmembers who are elected on May 4 as we pursue these activities.

Peter Benjamin

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:
www.garrettpark-md.gov
