

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 62

June 2015

No. 6



## Calendar

Fri., May 22	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at PO lobby		
Mon., May 25	Memorial Day; <i>no trash collection</i>		
Wed., May 27	Citizens Association meeting, update on White Flint development, Town Hall, 8 pm (see p 4)	Tues., June 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm (last one until September); <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., May 30	Farmers Market: Chicano Sol, 9 am–1 pm, Penn Place parking lot	Sun., June 14	Meet-the-Artist reception for Michael Shibley, Penn Place Gallery, 3 to 5 pm (see p 4)
Thurs., June 4	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Wed., June 17	Citizens Association meeting, storm water management, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (see p 4)
Fri., June 5	Deadline for summer calendar dates for the next <i>Bugle</i> to Mary Moyer; <i>Bugle</i> deadline for names of graduates and summer jobs list (see <i>Wanted</i> , p 2)	Thurs., June 18	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., June 6	GIVES collection, 9 am to 1 pm, PO lobby; Musicales, Town Hall, 4 pm (fundraiser for Ilah Gieser music scholarship; see p 3)	Fri., June 19	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby
Sun., June 7	“80 and Over” party, Town Hall, 2 pm (see pp 2,3)	Sat., June 20	GIVES collection, 9 am to 1 pm, Farmers Market
Mon., June 8	Art at Penn Place, new exhibit, Michael Shibley, oil and watercolor paintings (see p 4); Town	Fri., June 26	Film Society (1), <i>Seven Samurai</i> , dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm
		Sat., June 27	Large item pickup; Film Society (2), <i>Magnificent Seven</i> , dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (details next issue)

## Silt, Muck, and Swirlies

Nature's all abloom, and much of May's Town Council meeting was about efforts to beat it back. Three trees are leaning problematically toward the swimming pool; in Porcupine Woods, silt and muck are backing up and may create mosquito breeding grounds; the town's streets are coated with freshly fallen maple seeds—also known as swirlies, whirlies, helicopters, or (for you botanists) samaras.

On the pool trees, Jean Horan noted that the board has been contacting CSX (the trees are on their land), but CSX has been unresponsive. She asked that the Council provide the name of the last person at CSX with whom Gene Swearingen spoke, so that the board can get going on this—the pool will be opening before we know it.

Gene updated us on work in Porcupine Woods. “We've opened up the end that runs under the railroad tracks, and we'll see if that clears out some of the muck around the stream. We might have to do further work upstream. We're trying to make sure water gets through there, instead of backing up. Water tends to pond if it can't get past piles of debris, and as a result can breed mosquitoes.”

In re swirlies: We've had street cleaners in to deal with them and other material; some streets have apparently been cleaned more thoroughly than others.

Gene met last month with representatives of SHA, an engineer, and one of our maintenance

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people, to look at crosswalks at Strathmore and Kenilworth, and at Strathmore and Keswick. There's also some pretty bad damage to pavements between Montrose and Clermont. SHA is supposed to get back to us. At the moment they haven't committed to anything.

The Mayor announced that we've now done a complete right of way survey for possible sidewalks, but so far the engineers are doing nothing with it. We're talking to SHA about getting that going. Meanwhile, however, we have received a letter from SHA noting some opposition in town to the sidewalk project, and asking the town to provide the locations of residents in opposition, so that SHA can get a better sense of the mood of the town in regard to the project.

As is usually the case lately, the Town Manager's report described a town whose revenue and expenses are solid, fine, good. Bankruptcy would make better copy, but your reporter must stick to the facts. We're solvent.

One of the things the town's done with that money is order new computer equipment for the Town Office.

Before the Mayor adjourned the meeting, he welcomed back the three Councilmembers who were up for reelection, and asked if the Council would like to hold a retreat to talk about our goals this year for the town.

The Council liked this idea, and everyone will start thinking about a good date for the event.

Margaret Soltan



## Come to a Party!

Get ready to join your neighbors at a party celebrating all of the "80 and Over" Garrett Park residents. (You may be surprised at how many there are!) This event will happen on Sunday, June 7, at 2 pm in the Town Hall, with very special refreshments. Put it on your calendar, whatever your age.

*All are welcome!*

## Wanted

Calling all proud parents: we would like to publish the names of those in town who have successfully made it through their school years (high school and above). Give me a call with names, places graduated from, and future plans by June 5 to make it into the last issue of this printing year.

Do you have events throughout the summer that you would like mentioned in the calendar? Get those to me also by June 5 to be included.

Also needed: call the Town Office (301-933-7488) with names of youngsters (13 and above) who would like to babysit, pet sit, or do yard work or other odd jobs during the summer vacation. Please leave name, age, job(s) desired, and phone number or e-mail address with Elizabeth Henley. This list is updated regularly. Thank you.

Mary Moyer

## Green Again

Some of our newer neighbors, Joanne Straceski and Frederick Erickson of Keswick Street, are our donors for this month's green. We thank them and hope they enjoy the ambiance of our little town.

Anyone else care to join the bandwagon? We are painted up to the November *Bugle*. You can make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45, which will help cover the cost of the green banner, and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

David Altar  
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

### Citizens Association Officers:

President: Sean Conlan (sconlan@gmail.com)  
Vice-President: Michael Lutkenhouse  
Treasurer: Bridgett Silverman  
Secretary: Mike Grieb

### Bugle staff:

**Editor:** Barbara Collier (Box 191, 301-942-3526, bscollier@earthlink.net)  
**Reporters:** Margaret Soltan (Box 518, 301-929-8328, margaret.soltan@gmail.com), Mary Moyer (Box 98, 301-933-5764, MoyOrgnmstr@aol.com)

**Ads:** Mary Moyer (Box 98, 301-933-5764)

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

# Town Manager Notes

**Town elections.** Congratulations on reelection to Councilmembers Kacky Chantry, Phil Schulp, and Joanna Welch. Many thanks for the fine work of Chief Election Judge Suzanne Grefsheim and of Judges Joanne Schmader and Cliff Tarpy. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Henley, who organized and managed the election.

**Large item collection.** There will be a large item collection Saturday, June 27. Please be sure to place your items curbside no later than Friday evening.

**Upcoming events.** Please watch the town Web site for dates and times for the summer street cleaning.

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

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

ing, structural and electrical issues, and the like. For more information, contact the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services at 240-777-6300.

**Events.** Two very important events are coming up on June 6 and June 7:

On Saturday, June 6, the Spring Musicale will reveal a surprising range and variety of talent in and around our little town. This annual event raises funds for a music scholarship for a 5th grade student at Garrett Park Elementary School. The late Ilah Gieser of Garrett Park, in a gesture of generosity, conceived the idea of an annual scholarship to fund a year's private lessons for a young musician in the local community. To raise money for the scholarship, we hold a musicale every spring to showcase a rich array of vocal and instrumental talent. The Musicale will be held at the Town Hall and will start at 4 pm. Suggested donation is \$8. Children are welcome!

On Sunday, June 7, the "Over 80" gala celebrates our many long-lived residents with music, champagne, and delectable finger food. All are welcome to come toast our octogenarians and nonagenarians on this festive day, 2 to 4:30 pm in the Town Hall.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager



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Support Services	
<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>	

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## Citizens Association News

The Citizens Association will be hosting a meeting to get an update on White Flint development on May 27 at 8 pm. Also, save the date for a June meeting on storm water management, tentatively scheduled for June 17 at 7:30 pm (subject to change).

*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; these funds support Citizens Association programming, including the *Bugle*. Dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. You can pay by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

*Garrett Park listserv.* Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at [groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join](mailto: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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## Art at Penn Place

If you haven't had a chance yet to see the current exhibition of Farhad Heidarian's unique, abstract imagery, his work will remain in the gallery until May 30; please stop by.

Please note that the gallery will be dark from June 1 to 6 so that it can be spruced up for our next series of artists.

Congratulations, Ann Gordon! Garrett Park artist Ann Gordon is one of 56 artists chosen to show her work at the 2015 Smithsonian Community Juried Art Exhibition at the Ripley Center. The exhibition is called "Artists at Work" and highlights the amazing talent of Smithsonian staff and volunteers.

As a 10-year docent in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Ann was honored to be chosen to exhibit six years ago, and is proud to have her work chosen from some pretty stiff competition again this year. The exhibit has been extended until July 1, and more information can be found at [www.si.edu/Exhibitions/Museum/13](http://www.si.edu/Exhibitions/Museum/13). What a great time of year to head down to the Smithsonian for an afternoon of art appreciation!

Hearty congratulations also to Garrett Park artist Robert LeMar for winning "Best in Show" at the Rockville Art League's 2015 Invitational Show. His portrait of Martha, entitled "Lady on the Phone," is absolutely stunning—filled with delicate light and perfection of color—and must be seen in person. Robert's additional painting, "A Group of Ladies," won a third place ribbon, and both pieces will be on display at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery in Rockville through May 30: [www.rockvillemd.gov/index.aspx?NID=607](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/index.aspx?NID=607). We are so excited for Robert, and hope you will take time to visit the mansion during the month of May to view his award-winning paintings.

Also juried into the Rockville Art League Invitational show are Garrett Park artists Jane Salomon and Suzi Gifford. The Glenview Mansion is located at the Rockville Civic Center Park at 603 Edmonston Drive in Rockville, and open to the public Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am to 4:30 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 9 pm.

Beginning June 8, artist Michael Shibley's exquisite oil and watercolor paintings will be on exhibit in the Penn Place Gallery. Michael's vibrant use of color in his urban landscapes and his focus on light, shape, and shadow have earned him numerous awards and professional citations. His work appears in public and private collections in the Washington area and across the country, and we are so pleased to show his work at the Penn Place Gallery. Michael is an active participant in the Washington, D.C., area art community including the Montgomery Art Association, the Pâté Painters, the Takoma Watercolor Group, and the Strathmore Artists program; he is a Friend of the Yellow Barn at Glen Echo. Please join us at Michael's Meet-the-Artist reception on June 14, from 3 to 5 pm, and be sure to visit the gallery between June 8 and July 4 to see his wonderful paintings.

If you haven't yet "friended" Art at Penn Place on Facebook, please do! Get a sneak peek at our upcoming shows, enjoy photos of our Gallery events, and keep up with the accomplishments of our Garrett Park artists.

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Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

[www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov)

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## Letter from the Mayor

We have just had an election in town in which the challenger missed his opportunity to serve on the Town Council by a mere five votes. But what was most important in this election, and in all town elections, is not necessarily who won or lost, but who ran. I believe that it took great courage for each of the candidates in the election to put herself or himself forward as a candidate for public office. After all, in a contested election a candidate must be prepared to be rejected by the voters, and such a rejection is a blow to one's ego and self-esteem, regardless of how self-confident that person may seem.

This is especially true in a small town such as Garrett Park, where the voters are your neighbors and friends. In a national election the candidates may be able to rationalize wins or losses as being the effects of press coverage, funds raised for advertising, the performance of their party, changes in the national and world economy, and similar broad issues that may only partially be under the candidate's control. In a small town the factors that affect a win or loss are far more personal, and each candidate subjects himself or herself to the personal evaluation of voters who are basing their decisions not on what they have seen in television ads, but what they have heard the candidate say and what they think about that candidate as a person.

We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to those among us who feel so strongly that they want to help lead this town that they are willing to undergo that kind of scrutiny and perhaps not win the approval they seek. Our candidates may

differ on their positions on specific issues, but they run because they want to participate in the decisions which make our fantastic town an even better place. However much we may agree or disagree with their philosophies, we should admire them for wanting to contribute their time, their energy, and their individual skills to our common endeavor.

Once elected, our unpaid Town Councilmembers are faced with many decisions on issues of importance to the town. I believe that they all make those decisions out of their personal conviction that what they are doing will be in the best interests of the town. There is little or no opportunity for personal gain in any of these decisions, so I believe that the Councilmembers are acting out of sincere desires to do the right thing as they see it. Whether we agree or disagree with what they do or how they vote on issues, we should treat them with dignity and respect for taking on the onerous chore of doing the hard work and making the hard decisions.

I hope that you will all join me in welcoming back the elected Councilmembers, and in supporting them as they work to pursue their individual views of common good. We are lucky to have people of integrity, skill, and caring who are sufficiently devoted to our town that they are willing to stand for election and serve the town to the best of their abilities. When you see them around town, please thank them for caring enough to make a difference for the town.

Peter Benjamin

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