

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 62

November 2015

No. 9



Calendar

Fri., Oct. 23	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO	Mon., Nov. 9	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Sun., Oct. 25	Art at Penn Place, new exhibit, paintings by Glenn Roberts (p 6)	Tues., Nov. 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Mon., Oct. 26	Last weekly pickup, yard waste	Wed., Nov. 11	Veterans Day; Town Office closed
Thurs., Oct. 29	Arboretum Committee monthly meeting, Town Office, 7:30 pm	Sat., Nov. 14	Farmer's Market, Penn Place parking area, 9 am–1 pm
Fri., Oct. 30	GPES Halloween costume parade, 2:15 pm (p 3); Garrett Park After Dark Halloween Movie Night, Town Hall, 6:30 pm (see p)	Thurs., Nov. 19	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Oct. 31	Elaine Kennedy Memorial, Town Hall, 2 pm; Trick or Treat night	Fri., Nov. 20	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO; GPNS Annual Craft Fair preview party and silent auction, Town Hall, 7 to 10 pm (see p 5)
Sun., Nov. 1	Art at Penn Place reception, "Meet the Artist," Glenn Roberts, 3–5 pm (p 6)	Sat., Nov. 21	GPNS Annual Craft Fair, Town Hall, 9 am–6 pm; GIVES collection at Farmer's Market, Penn Place parking area
Mon., Nov. 2	Monthly yard-waste pickup	Sun., Nov. 22	GPNS Annual Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm; Art at Penn Place, new exhibit, photographs by Warren Kornberg (p 6)
Thurs., Nov. 5	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Nov. 26	Thanksgiving; Town Office closed
Sat., Nov. 7	Farmer's Market, Penn Place parking area, 9 am–1 pm; GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–noon	Fri., Nov. 27	Town Office closed
Sun., Nov. 8	Annual tree walk with arborist Phil Normandy; meet at Penn Place at 1 pm (see p 2)		

A Setback for Garrett Park

Harry Gordon, longtime chair of the Setback Advisory Committee, is moving to his new house in the Adirondacks, which means his calm counsel will no longer be available to the town. Amid a standing ovation, Mayor Benjamin presented Harry with a resolution praising his "thoughtful, articulate, and thorough" approach to problems, and in particular his "sensitivity to the town's unique character and history." In his response, Harry thanked the town and noted that "we stand in a room that's filled with volunteers. They and the generations of people who've come before us have contributed to making this town a wonderful place to live."

Now Liz King presented to the Council both an update on Walter Johnson High School cluster issues and a request that one or more members of the Council testify at an upcoming Board of Education meeting to say that Garrett Park does not want to be redistricted out of its current boundaries. Development in our area continues to increase Walter Johnson's enrollments, and there's a significant consensus for reopening Woodward to deal with this, but we want to stipulate that we would support this "only if all current WJ students will be sent to WJ or Woodward. Public officials from the town can help get the attention of the Board

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of Ed, so we're asking for the council to help out." The Mayor said that he and the Council will consider what they can do to assist.

A long discussion now ensued about our repaving emergency. The engineering company made a mistake in coming up with the number of feet to be covered, and this increased our cost. We negotiated an additional fee of \$50,000, to which we would add a \$35,000 contingency, so the request to the Council was to approve amending the town budget to make \$85,000 available for this purpose.

Kacky Chantry argued that with one thing and another we actually have a bit less of a money cushion, once we do this, than the Mayor suggested.

Some people wondered if the Council was informed quickly enough once we knew of the error. Phil Schulp said, "This was a fairly significant error. We need to look at our review process. Something needs to be happening so that we're not coming to this same point again."

Tara Flynn commented: "It's an unfortunate situation, and I appreciate that everyone wanted to figure out exactly how to solve it, but I don't think there's any harm in letting the Council know right away when there is something on the horizon, so I would echo Phil's point."

After more discussion on the Council, between the Council and the Mayor, and from residents in the audience, having to do with problems in the process by which this contract was awarded, Peter Benjamin said that he will give earlier warnings to the Council about situations that are becoming problematic.

Hans Wegner now moved that the Council concur with the Mayor's finding that the situation was an emergency, thus allowing the ordinance providing funds to take effect immediately. There was one abstention; all others voted in favor. A subsequent unanimous yes vote supported the ordinance moving funds within the capital budget.

We now moved on to the town's killer trees. Several arborists came in to look at the tulip trees on Keswick, but they could not agree as to their degree of lethality. (Should they fall on someone, that is.) But the new head of the Arboretum Committee argued that the elderly tulip trees on the 10800 block "have suffered so much damage and are living so difficult a life that it would be safer to take them down." The 10700 block trees are in better shape, and "some people on that street really want the trees to stay up."

Hans said that people in the 10800 block are anxious about their "unique situation with this congregation of problem trees."

Tara Flynn, thinking about possible liability on the part of the town, said she was "not sure I feel comfortable leaving the trees in the 10700 block."

In order to deal with such problems in the future, the Arboretum Committee is looking into creating a plan that covers the whole town, so we more fully know what's going on, and what might need to come down.

Kacky Chantry moved that we approve the removal of eight trees on the 10800 block, and this received a yes vote. She then moved that we accept the proposal of the Arboretum Committee that we retain the trees on the 10700 block (while closely monitoring them). This also passed (two no, three yes).

This reporter would like to add her best wishes to Harry and Christa as they prepare to move north.

Margaret Soltan

Annual Tree Walk

Garrett Park's Annual Tree Walk will take place on Sunday, November 8. Join Town Arborist Phil Normandy and the GP Arboretum Committee for a guided tour of Garrett Park's historic and unique trees. Meet at Penn Place at 1 pm.

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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/submitBugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Manager Notes

This is a busy fall season with many activities taking place.

Street rehabilitation. During October the town has been re-paving parts of several streets throughout town. You may have seen the markings on those streets indicating where the work will be done. The paving is being done by M. T. Laney and will take about another two weeks to complete, weather permitting. The initial milling of the pavement has been completed, as has the repair of the base. The final step is the laying of new pavement, which began in the week of October 19. Watch out for the work and for the workers!

Temporary town Web page. You may have noticed that our existing Web site is no longer available. Our site crashed, and we have been unable to restore it. Although we have been developing a completely new Web site that will improve communication with residents, it will not be ready for several months. For the interim we have created a temporary Web page that will be used to provide limited information and updates. It will not have the many links and functions associated with a full site. You may reach the temporary page by going to our old Web site address. For many of the functions normally available on the Web site, you will have to call the office at 301-933-7488 or visit us in Penn Place. We look forward to talking to you or seeing you personally if you need more information.

Halloween. Garrett Park Elementary School will hold a Halloween parade on Friday, October 30, at 2:15 pm. The parade will start at the school, proceed down Oxford Street, turn south on Montrose to the dead end, and return to the school. There will be over 500 participants in the parade! The street will close to vehicular traffic at 1:30 pm.

Leaf removal. During the leaf removal season, each street will be cleared once every week, as early in the week as possible (rain will delay collections). Leaves should be placed in rows along the street side of the curb. Please remove sticks, rocks, trash, and other debris that could damage the machinery. Shredded leaves or grass clippings should be bagged and put out for the regular yard waste collection on Mondays (or they can be composted). As you drive through town, please be aware of children who may be playing in leaf piles. Thank you for your cooperation.

Yard waste pickup. From November to February, yard waste will be collected on the first Monday of each month only. Weekly collection will resume in March.

Trees. The town's Arboretum Committee will begin its new schedule of monthly meetings on Thursday, October 29. The meetings will be held at the Town Office, 7:30 pm, the last Thursday of every month.

Leaf raking & yard work assistance. Any young people in town who would like to offer their services to help residents with fall yard work may contact Elizabeth Henley at the Town Office (301-933-7488) to add their names to our list.

As always, please call me with any questions or concerns, 301-933-7488.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

Memorial
for longtime Garrett Park resident
Elaine Kennedy
on Saturday, October 31,
at 2 pm, Town Hall



Services for Seniors

<p>Activities of Daily Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bathing• Dressing• Lifting• Transferring• Personal Care & Hygiene	<p>What Makes ElderCaring Different?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimum• All caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistants• The owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needs• All caregivers are fluent in English• Personal choice in selection of every caregiver• Licensed, Bonded, Insured• 24 Hours Service – 7 Days a Week
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Citizens Association Notes

Those of you who read last month's *Bugle* or who have spoken to me in person know that Spooky Woods is not happening this year. I appreciate all of the folks who have approached the CA with offers to help. Unfortunately, this year was truly a perfect storm, with virtually all of the Spooky Woods veterans out of town or otherwise unable to attend. The CA intends to bring Spooky Woods back in 2016 better than ever, but to do that we need your help! Send a note to Sean Conlan if you want to be contacted to help with next year's Spooky Woods. This year, we have something different planned...

On Friday, October 30, we will be hosting the *Garrett Park After Dark Halloween Movie Night* at the Town Hall. Starting at 6:30 pm, we will be showing the 1974 Mel Brooks classic *Young Frankenstein*, and at 8:30 pm we'll be showing *The Addams Family* (1991). We will also have overflow seating in the back yard of Town Hall featuring two classic Ed Wood films. There will be some seating indoors, but I encourage you to bring your camp chairs and blankets. Since these movies are being shown around dinner time, we will have pizza and snacks for sale, as well as the traditional hot cocoa and cider (proceeds to benefit the Garrett Park Elementary School Education Foundation).

Upcoming. There will be no October CA meeting

- October 30: Garrett Park After Dark Halloween Movie Night
- November CA meeting: TBD—Watch for signs in the post office and notices on the listservs
- January 30, 2016: Town Dinner

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

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 \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

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

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

Green Again

We thank Joanne Schmader and Michael Casassa for this month's green banner, which they are sponsoring in celebration of son Tim's earning a master's degree in cybersecurity from University of Maryland, Baltimore County. They are proud of him.

Anyone want to sponsor a green *Bugle* banner in 2016? If so, please make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to Mary Moyer at Box 98. Many thanks.



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"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"

GPNS Craft Fair

Garrett Park Nursery School presents its 49th annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 21, from 9 am to 6 pm, and on Sunday, November 22, from 10 am to 5 pm at the Town Hall. There will also be a preview party and silent auction for the school community, GPNS supporters, alumni, neighbors, and friends, on Friday, November 20, from 7 to 10 pm.

Join us for Montgomery County’s largest non-profit sponsored craft fair, with over 50 crafters offering their wares, as well as high-end baked goods for sale. There will also be food trucks selling barbecue and freshly made crepes. For more information, visit our Web site at www.gpnscraftfair.org or find us on Facebook.

Garrett Park Film Society, 2016 Series

January 15: *Casting By* (USA, 2013, documentary). The behind-the-scenes life of the casting director: “If you love the movies, you will love this documentary.” Ergo, the perfect film to start the 2016 series.

February 12: *The Lunchbox* (India, 2013, PG). A poignant tale of two lonely people whose lives are changed when Mumbai’s famously efficient lunchbox delivery service makes a mistake.

March 11: *The Wages of Fear* (France, 1953, classic thriller, PG). Starring Yves Montand and directed by Henri-Georges Clouzot, who is considered the “French Hitchcock,” the film “blends nonstop suspense with biting satire.”

April 15: *Pygmalion* (UK, 1938, G). A familiar story, with Wendy Hiller as Eliza Doolittle and Leslie Howard as Henry Higgins making the most of G. B. Shaw’s comedy of manners.

June 3: *Bagdad Café* (Germany, 1987, PG). After a fight with her husband, Jasmin, a German

tourist, storms off and ends up at the Bagdad Café, a truck stop in the Mojave Desert. There she meets Brenda (CCH Pounder), who has husband trouble of her own. Described by one reviewer as “a film about ... the nature of being human, and the pleasures of being alive.”

September 9: *Das Boot* (Germany, 1981, action/adventure/war drama, R). A film that deals with “heroism, duty, patriotism, hope, fear and the futility of war.” Perhaps the best submarine movie ever—excellent acting, direction, and cinematography.

October 21: *Best of Enemies* (USA, 2015, documentary, R). Tag line: Two men. Two debates. Television would never be the same. Buckley vs Vidal. Just in time for the election.

December 16: *Strictly Ballroom* (Australia, 1992, PG). Directed by Baz Luhrmann, this film will have you dancing in the aisles. It is campy, it is a love story, and it will have you heading for the nearest Arthur Murray Studio.

Garrett Park Film Society, 2016 Series

Yes! I want to be a member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Send notices to (check one) e-mail U.S. post both

Check the level of membership you want. All levels include admission to all films and coupons that can be used for soft drinks, popcorn, and nuts (when available). Higher memberships receive more coupons.

Make check payable to “Garrett Park Film Society” or “GPFS.”

Mail form and check to Suzanne Grefsheim, GPFS Treasurer, Box 175, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

- Gaffer, Single** \$30 (5 coupons)
- Gaffer, Family** \$50 (10 coupons)
- Screenwriter** \$100 (20 coupons)
- Film Sponsor** \$250 (20 coupons; reserved front row seats for sponsored film; acknowledgement of your support)
- Director** \$300 (20 coupons; one glass of wine or beer per film)
- Producer** \$500 (20 coupons; free dinner for two for each film shown in 2016)

Art at Penn Place

If you haven't yet visited the Penn Place Gallery to see the photographs by Melanie Altar, there's still time to stop by! Melanie's exhibit, "highlands—lowlands," will be on display through October 24.

Our November artist is Glenn Roberts, a Garrett Park artist whose paintings are uniquely expressive and fresh. Glenn studied at the San Francisco Museum of Art and the San Francisco Art Institute while driving a taxicab at night to support himself. After several years and a multitude of paintings, he returned to political work, storing away his canvas, brushes, and paints. When, years later, his daughters begged him to paint again, he rediscovered his passion, found he still loved to create, and has been painting ever since.

Glenn was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2000. Communicating with the outside world has become more and more difficult, yet his art remains a wonderful way for Glenn to express himself. As his condition changes, Glenn finds his colors get brighter and his figures become bolder. His portraits are extraordinary, their colors unconventional and intense.

Come see Glenn's paintings at the gallery from October 25 through November 21, and please join us at his "Meet the Artist" reception

on November 1 from 3 to 5 pm; everyone is welcome!

Beginning November 22, Penn Place Gallery is pleased to present the work of Garrett Park photographer Warren Kornberg. In 2013, after 33 years of treks carrying photographic gear and hours in the darkroom, Warren finally succumbed to the lure of the 21st century digital revolution and began turning his black and white photographs into digital prints. However, Warren has not lost his devotion to the skills he learned from the master photographers of the early and middle twentieth century, and happily keeps one foot in each world.

Warren's photographs have been juried into shows at the Strathmore Arts Center, the School 33 Gallery in Baltimore, the Torpedo Factory Gallery in Alexandria, and the Glenview Mansion in Rockville. They are also represented in a number of private and corporate collections. Warren's photographs will be displayed at Penn Place Gallery from November 22 to December 19, and we hope you will stop by to see them!

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

Eagle Scouts Improve Park

Did you ever walk around Cambria woods and stumble upon an old, decrepit grill area that seemed to be in dire need of help? Well, I did, 11 years ago. My name is Victor Vergara. I am a resident of Garrett Park and a member of Boy Scout Troop 463. On October 11, I led an Eagle Scout project that involved rebuilding that old grill and a picnic area inside the Cambria Park woods. This new and improved picnic area is now more accessible because we made a new path that directly connects the area to Cambria Avenue.

The project included a picnic table, the creation of the new path, and the reconstruction of an improved stone grill that can handle up to 300 lb of anything you wish to grill!

It was an amazing experience to improve a place like this.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who made this happen: Nico Zucci, Andrew Norman, Christopher Norman, Peter Walls, Mark Casassa, Shanti Pujar,

Dav King, David Bagnall, John Ferry, Antonio Galindo-Zabel, Shashi Pujar, Dane Ray, and Jack Ray.

I would also like to thank some other people without whose help this project would have not been a success: Matthew Casassa, Doug Mader, Vanessa Sciarra, Byron Lord, Gene Swearingen, Gabriela de la Garza, Butch Frost, and Frank Breazeale.

Victor Vergara



Governance Concerns

The latest need for our Town Council to pass an "Emergency Ordinance" highlights what I see as a disturbing trend in our local government. Long story short, Chester Engineers, the engineering firm hired by the town, made a 34-percent arithmetical error in their preparation of the Request for Proposals from companies bidding on our street paving. The winning contractor, M. T. Laney, discovered the error, which resulted in an actual number of square yards to be paved that was substantially larger than what they had bid in response to the town's erroneous scope of work figures. M. T. Laney informed the Town Manager on Friday, September 25, that the cost quoted in their bid did not cover the entire project, because the project is in fact larger than described in the RFP. The amount allocated in the town's capital budget was insufficient to cover the additional expense, so the Town Council needed to pass an ordinance shifting funds from other budget items, or it needed to consider what it could do to work within the budgeted amount. The paving project was scheduled to start on Tuesday, September 29, which gave the Council time to consider the situation and make a decision to either find more money or reduce/modify the project. However, the Council was not informed of the situation until after the project was already started. Because the Council was presented with a "fait accompli," it seemed to have no choice other than to vote to allocate more money from elsewhere. The streets were torn up and no paving work could commence until the money was found. What did become apparent at the Council meeting, and it seemed to come as a surprise to the members, was that the street paving could have been finished within the originally budgeted amount. It is the "Cadillac" fix, recommended by the engineering firm, which requires deep patching and costs more than originally authorized.

There are so many things wrong with this scenario it boggles the mind. Why was the town still using an engineering firm that had repeatedly failed in virtually every task awarded to it? How did such a large arithmetical error go undetected by our government? Why did the Town Office delay in notifying the Council until the work had already commenced? Why was the Town Office unable or unwilling to explain that Ordinance 2015-3 on the agenda was an emergency request to cover a pending contract overrun when I posed the question? Finally, any ordinance, emergency or not, requires a public hearing with discussion of the issue. Without being able to listen to the reasoning and rationale behind decisions, residents are left to only conjecture how the town arrived at these decisions. A solicitation of Councilmember opinions via e-mail, prior to the meeting, short circuits any discussion that might shed light on the decision as well as the Sunshine law.

The fact that the Town Council was not informed in a timely manner is concerning. Some argued that they had already voted to do the work and had no problem with the situation. The problem with that attitude is that although the work had been approved, the funding had not been approved, and such decisions are the responsibility of the Council. I think the larger problem is that there was never any critical thinking or analysis of what went wrong and why. Even worse, the Council again voted to fund a large project (tree removal on Keswick) without specifying how much money was being allocated. The only two Councilmembers who challenged the conclusions and the process followed in that instance were Phil Schulp and Kacky Chantry.

No matter how much spin the Mayor puts on his interpretation of these events, the fact remains that our town governance is flawed and needs repair.

Barbara Jackson

Elbert Chang, DDS, MS

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Letter from the Mayor

At the October Town Council meeting, the Council voted to amend the FY 2015 Capital Budget to move funds in order to cover the full costs of the current street paving, which, by the time you read this, should be completed or close to completed. Because there were rumors about this project which were stated at the meeting, let me clarify what happened. First of all, the Council approved the full paving project in its September meeting. On the Friday before the paving was to begin, Town Manager Gene Swearingen and Councilmember Hans Wegner went through the entire project in the field with the contractor, M. T. Laney, and our engineer at the time, Chester Engineering, to make sure that everyone agreed on exactly what work was to be done. When the work areas were measured, it was determined that the number of square yards of paving to be done was understated in the bid documents, which had been prepared by Chester. A review of the materials that Chester had used to develop that number indicated that they had made an arithmetic error.

As a side matter, we had recognized previously that Chester was not giving us quality work and at its September meeting, the Town Council had authorized the award of an engineering contract to the winner of a competition we had been conducting for a replacement for Chester. By the time we were ready to start the paving project, we had already signed a contract with Nobis Engineering.

We immediately asked M. T. Laney, the paving contractor, for a new price to reflect the additional work and materials necessary to do the whole project rather than the understated number in the bid documents. We determined that all bidders had used the same understated number, so the competition for the paving work was valid. On Monday Laney calculated the additional cost and provided it to us. Because M. T. Laney had already scheduled the work and was mobilized to proceed, on Tuesday we negotiated a very good price for the extra work—lower per square foot than the original bid.

Because there was sufficient money in the Capital Budget to carry out the full project without affecting any other pending capital projects, we determined that we could move money from other line items to the paving item with Council approval. Since M. T. Laney was poised to begin work and not allowing them to do so would result in delaying our project, potentially into the spring, and might cost more at that time, on Wednesday we authorized the project to begin with the constraint that it not exceed the initial contract amount until additional funds might be made available by the Council, and informed the Council of the need to reprogram funds in order to do the full project.

At the October meeting the Council unanimously approved (with no abstentions) a budget

amendment that did not affect the operating budget at all, did not increase the bottom line of the capital budget, and moved money from other capital line items to the streets line item to provide sufficient funds to complete the paving project. The Council voted that all line items that transferred money to streets will be brought back to their original levels in the January mid-year budget adjustment.

In summary:

- This project was identified as necessary in the Capital Program developed 10 years ago, and the Council had approved doing all of it, because it was all necessary.
- The project did not cost the town any more than it would have had the correct number been in the RFP.
- The error was totally the fault of an arithmetic error by the former town engineers.
- At no time was the paving company authorized to perform any work not authorized by the Council or in excess of the funds available.
- All town actions were totally consistent with town policies, procedures, and rules.

Despite this, there were citizens who came to the Town Council meeting and disparaged the Council and staff, claimed that the actions in this matter were improper, that the town was incompetent, and that the leaders of our town acted in secret. They insulted the Councilmembers, Mayor, and Town Manager, and claimed that your elected officials were acting out of motives that were contrary to the interests of the town.

I have repeatedly asked that all of us act in a civil manner, that we respect opinions of others who may disagree with us, and that we acknowledge that our elected officials, who are all unpaid volunteers, are acting in the best interests of the town as they see them. What your town government does is complex, often difficult, and demanding.

I believe that our tiny town staff of four—two maintenance and two administrative personnel—work exceptionally hard to handle a very large work load. I believe that our Councilmembers are dedicated, caring, and thoughtful people who want to make our town a better place. They deal with issues which require them to weigh many pros and cons and try to find the right balance. We owe all of these people our gratitude. Attacking them, abusing them, and questioning their motives is contrary to the very values that are inherent in the character of our town. I ask each of you, when you talk to any of our town officials in the coming days and weeks, to thank them for their willingness to take on the challenges of leadership and necessary decision making.

Peter Benjamin