

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 62

March 2015

No. 3



Calendar

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|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Thurs., Feb. 19 | GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm | Tues., Mar. 10 | Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm |
| Fri., Feb. 20 | Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> from the basket at Penn Place; Film Society, <i>20 Feet from Stardom</i> , Town Hall, dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm | Sun., Mar. 15 | Art at Penn Place, reception for photographer Bruce Cyr, 3–5 pm |
| Sat., Feb. 21 | No Farmers Market | Thurs., Mar. 19 | GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm |
| Sat., Feb. 28 | Deadline for applying for summer jobs at the pool (p 5) | Fri., Mar. 20 | Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> , Penn Place lobby; Film Society, <i>La Vie en Rose</i> , Town Hall, dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 2) |
| Mon., Mar. 2 | Weekly yard waste collection begins; Art at Penn Place, new show begins, photographs by Bruce Cyr (see p 4) | Mon., Mar. 23 | Town Council public work session on budget, Town Office, 7:30 pm |
| Thurs., Mar. 5 | GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm | Wed., Mar. 25 | Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm: Nominations for Town Council |
| Sat., Mar. 7 | GIVES collection, PO, 9 am–1 pm | Sat., Mar. 28 | Large item pickup; voter registration for town election, 8 am–12 pm, PO lobby |
| Sun., Mar. 8 | Daylight Savings time begins; reset clocks ahead | | |
| Mon., Mar. 9 | Town Council Mtg., Town Hall, 7:30 pm | | |

Intrepid *Bugle* Reporter Makes It Safely to Council Meeting

It was a dark Monday evening in February, and I had to hurry to the Town Hall so I wouldn't be late for the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting. Usually I walk, but given the hour, and the import of my duty as your humble reporter, I was able to embed myself in a neighbor's helicopter that was heading toward Kenilworth Avenue. But we were forced down after being hit by an RPG (fired from the GP Estates forces). Fortunately, we hadn't made it out past my driveway, and I was able to walk the one block to get to the meeting on time.

The meeting was indeed called to order at 7:33 pm in front of a record crowd: aside from your reporter, there was no one there. This ties a record for the lowest nonmedia attendance at a Council meeting.

There being no presentations by residents (there being no residents present), the Council moved on to unanimously approving Ordinance 2015-01—the Midyear Budget Adjustments. This is the bill that was presented last month, having been introduced even before that. So nothing more really need to be said about it.

But because budgeting is so much fun, the Mayor reminded the Council that it's already time to start on the FY 2016 budget. To that end, he suggested that it be introduced on March 9, with an eye toward a (public) work session on March 23 and adoption in April.

Speaking of budgets, the Mayor noted that many Garrett Park homeowners were the proud recipients of higher home assessments recently. If the town were to maintain a constant yield—meaning we seek the same amount of total tax revenue from town homeowners—then the Council would have to lower the tax rate to counteract the increased assessment. It's not like a tax cut, but it is a tax hike averted, so it certainly sounds nice.

By this time, a town resident did arrive at the meeting. Also, someone walked into the kitchen, but I only saw her from the back.

There was some discussion on the report on the sidewalks. Basically, we had told the state that we needed an engineering survey to make sure

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anything that gets done is all on the town's right-of-way. But they said we didn't need a survey. Turns out, after the comments to the 15-percent design were received, the state admitted that we were right. Also, the state thought that the survey couldn't be done for less than \$60,000. But we showed them that we could get it done for \$15,000 to \$20,000. So they deferred to us again. The difference means that more federal funds would be available for other parts of the project. All this back and forth means that it will probably be June before we see the 30-percent design.

After that discussion, the Town Manager gave his report (everything seems fine, especially since we recovered from the state some taxes owed us), and then the meeting adjourned at 8:06, nearly tying a record for the shortest meeting. The shortest meeting, someone recalled, took less than a half-hour. I think I was at that meeting; my helicopter made it without any trouble.

Randy Auerbach

GPFS: Another Award Winner

La Vie En Rose (2007, in French, PG-13) will be shown on March 20 at 8 pm in the Town Hall. For her performance as the singer Edith Piaf, Marion Cotillard won the Oscar for Best Actress (btw, she is nominated again this year for her latest film). The film begins with events in her childhood, but is primarily a series of memories and associations Piaf has at the end of her life at age 47. And, while the film ends with her singing "Non, je ne regrette rien" (No Regrets), it is clear her life was filled with heartache. The acting is outstanding and the music unforgettable.

Dinner and drinks will be served at 7 pm and will feature French cooking, meat and meatless. Cost for dinner is usually \$10 with dessert extra. Drinks include soda, bottled water, beer, and wine at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5. For more details about the menu, see the poster in the PO, or read about it on the GP neighbors list the week before the showing.

Admission to the film is free to GPFS members and is \$5 per person or \$10 per family for nonmembers.

Parking in Garrett Park

The Mayor has asked us to look at the parking and traffic laws in Garrett Park. As currently written, they are inconsistent and inflexible, and they provide no practical enforcement authority. This raises the question, "Why have meaningless laws?" So, our charge is to review the laws; consider ways to clarify, simplify, and add flexibility to them; and recommend options for enforcement.

To make it manageable, we're starting with parking, and how to give the Town Manager flexibility to make adjustments as the need arises. An example of the inflexibility: the Town Manager doesn't have the authority to post temporary no-parking signs for town or school events or required town maintenance. To do so, he would need to get the Town Council to pass an event-specific ordinance: a multi-month process for each instance.

Other problems we know exist:

- No practical authority to enforce restricted parking
- Streets that become impassable when cars are parked on both sides
- Lack of access for emergency vehicles

Obviously, the two of us can't tackle this issue alone. We are eager to hear your input and invite you to join the effort. Call the Town Office or e-mail us directly: Councilmembers Hans Wegner and Joanna Welch (gpmdjoanna@gmail.com).

Green Again

Patrick and Therese Keating are this month's benefactors for our green banner. We thank them for their donation. Anyone else care to join the bandwagon? We are dry as of the June *Bugle*. You can make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Did you use the envelope to mail in your dues to the Citizens Association? Your dues cover the major expenses of the Citizens Association for the year (namely, this paper) and are also used for the 4th of July doings and Spooky Woods activities. Our thanks to all residents who paid up.

Mary Moyer

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

Citizens Association Officers:

President: Sean Conlan
Vice-President: Michael Lutkenhouse
Treasurer: Bridgett Silverman
Secretary: Mike Grieb

Bugle staff:

Editor: Barbara Collier (Box 191)

Reporters: Margaret Soltan (Box 518), Mary Moyer (Box 98), Randy Auerbach (Box 107, bugle@randyauebach.com)

Ads: Mary Moyer (Box 98)

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

Town Manager Notes

Town budget. The Council will be working on the FY 2016 budget (July 2015 through June 2016) over the coming weeks. The proposed budget will be introduced at the March 9 Council meeting, and then discussed at a work session to be held on Monday, March 23, at 7:30 pm in the Town Office at Penn Place. The recommended budget will then be introduced at the regular Council meeting on April 13. Town residents are encouraged to attend the work session or to provide comments or suggestions regarding next fiscal year's budget by contacting the Mayor, a Councilmember, or the Town Manager.

Snow removal. We likely will have another snow in March, so just a continued reminder that it's especially important to park off the streets when snow is expected so the town crew can clear from curb to curb whenever possible. This will allow for more space to park after the streets are plowed. If you have a special need for your driveway to be open (medical supplies, caregiver services, etc.), please call the office and let us know so that we can make sure your driveway is among the first to have the plowed snow pushed aside.

Also, if you need help shoveling snow, the town has a list of residents who would like to help. Check the Post Office bulletin board, the printed *Bugle*, or call the Town Office for names.

State tax form reminder. Remember to write "Garrett Park" in the box labeled "City, Town or Taxing Area" when filling out your state income tax forms. This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues the state distributes to the 23 counties and 157 incorporated cities and towns throughout Maryland. This revenue supports many of the services the town provides to residents.

Yard waste pickup. If you still have a few leaves left over or other yard waste to dispose of, you can either pile everything up in a corner of your yard for composting (the Town Office has composting bins available for free) or bag the leaves for the yard waste pickup. Weekly pickup begins with the first Monday in March (Mar. 2). Please remember to bundle sticks in lengths of no more than 4 feet, and place clippings, leaves, etc. in paper leaf bags (no plastic bags).

Large item pickup. The next large item pickup is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. Remember to place your items curbside by that Friday.

Town elections 2014. Election Day in Garrett Park will be Monday, May 4. Polls are open from 7 am to 7:30 pm in the public lobby of the Post Office at Penn Place. The terms of office for Town Councilmembers Kacky Chantry, Phil Schulp, and Joanna Welch are up this year. The last day to register to vote in this election is Saturday, April 4. Candidate nominations will take place during the Citizens Association meeting on Wednesday,

March 25, with the Candidates Forum currently set for Wednesday, April 22. Additional nominations may be made by written petition signed by 10 registered voters and filed with the Town Office by 4 pm on Monday, April 13.

Absentee ballots. **Note:** All absentee ballots must be applied for in writing. Absentee ballot applications will be available from the Town Office or the town Web site (www.garrettpark-md.gov) as of Wednesday, April 15; absentee ballots can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to you, or you can pick yours up at the Town Office. After April 27, a voter or the voter's agent must obtain an Absentee Ballot application in person from the Town Office. All ballots must be received by the Judge of Elections by the close of the polls at 7:30 pm. Results will be announced at a reception in the Town Hall, hopefully by 10 pm. The reception will start at 9:30 pm.

Voter registration. To be eligible to vote in a town election, you need to be registered with Montgomery County at your Garrett Park address, or on the list of qualified noncitizen Garrett Park residents. If you have not voted in a county/state/national election in the last five years, the Montgomery County Board of Elections will have struck your name from the active voters file. You will need to renew your registration with the Board. The Board of Elections' 24 hour Voter Information Line is 240-777-8683. You may also obtain forms needed to register at the Town Office during normal office hours or at the post office. Special registration hours will be held on Saturday, March 28, and Saturday, April 4, from 8 am to 12 noon in the Post Office lobby at Penn Place. Please call the Town Office with any questions regarding registration, qualification of voters, nominations, etc.

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

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov

Services for Seniors

| | |
|---|--|
| Activities of Daily Living <ul style="list-style-type: none">BathingLiftingPersonal Care & HygieneDressingTransferring | What Makes ElderCaring Different? <ul style="list-style-type: none">2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimumAll caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistantsThe owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needsAll caregivers are fluent in EnglishPersonal choice in selection of every caregiverLicensed, Bonded, Insured24 Hours Service – 7 Days a Week |
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Art at Penn Place

There is still time to experience the exciting collages of Felisa Federman, on display in the gallery until February 28.

Beginning March 2, we are pleased to present the work of Garrett Park photographer Bruce Cyr. Bruce began his career by photographing flowers in his wife's garden and birds in Rock Creek Park. After being invited to join the North Bethesda Camera Club, Bruce claims he "learned how little he knew about photography!" Entering their monthly competitions, he discovered time-lapse videos, camera motion abstracts, night photography, panoramas, focus stacking, multi-exposures, and extreme depth of field, and was soon hooked. Bruce's goal is to create images that are at once familiar and unusual. Come meet Bruce at his "Meet the Artist" reception on March 15 from 3 to 5 pm at the gallery. Admission to the gallery is always free, and everyone is invited!

Invitational Art Show. Penn Place Gallery will host this annual show from March 29 to May 2, featuring artists who live Montgomery County but do not reside in Garrett Park. Artwork in the show will be chosen by Juror Robert Stuart Cohen, an educator, juror, and exhibitor in Montgomery County for over 30 years.

Submitting artists must be 18 and older, working in any wall-hung art. Anyone who has had a solo exhibit in the gallery must wait 2 years before resubmitting work. Work must be new to the gallery, and pieces larger than 36 by 48 will be considered on a space-available basis. Artists chosen to participate will be notified by midnight on March 15. An entry fee of \$25 will apply only to accepted work. A Best-in-Show winner will be announced at the opening reception (March 29 from 3 to 5 pm). The winning artist will be awarded a solo show in the gallery in 2016.

To submit an entry, please e-mail a jpeg of your selected piece, its title, medium, size, and price, along with your name, address, e-mail address, and phone number(s) to Vickie Baily by March 1, or you may send a digital print with the accompanying information to Vickie Baily, PO Box 1, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Contact Vickie if you have further questions.

Citizen Association News

Report from Town Dinner. The Town Dinner in January featured stories of things that got away from us. From Japanese exchange students who left before prom, baby squirrels running amok, and 2-year-olds petting the "kitty"—it seems Garrett Parkers have had some challenges!

There was also a unanimous vote for the Citizens Association Board members. Sean Conlan is president, Michael Lutkenhouse is vice-president, Bridgett Silverman is treasurer, and Mike Grieb is secretary.

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

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Sean Conlan or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2015 annual dues are being collected. It's been a few years since we last raised dues; we feel it has become necessary to keep up with rising costs and allow us to keep up the quality of programming and to support the *Bugle*. The annual dues are now \$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.

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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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The *e-Bugle* is available on the town Web site the Monday after the Town Council meeting.
- ♪ Did you make it to the Archives presentation on February 8? If not, you missed hearing some fascinating stories about the town in times gone by. But you have another chance to hear about town history! Did you know GP had its own theatrical troupe? Mark your calendars for April 19, when there will be a presentation on the Garrett Players.
- ♪ If you want a summer job at the pool this year, you must apply by February 28. See www.garrettparkpool.com for information.
- ♪ GPES is having a recorder concert Monday, February 23. Come hear 100 third grade

students play (2:30 and 7:30 pm) in the multi-purpose room.

It's Fun to Sing Together!

This year's Garrett Park Musicale will take place on Saturday, June 6, at the Town Hall. This late afternoon event for all music lovers benefits the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship Fund. The scholarship has been sponsoring a budding GPES music student each year for the past 18 years.

Join the Garrett Park chorus and have fun singing at the Musicale. Interested? Questions? Contact us: Meme (Megumi) Lincoln and Sue Petito.

Obituary

Seymour ("Sy") Roth

Seymour ("Sy") Roth, a Garrett Park resident for more than four decades, passed away on January 21 at the Hebrew Home for the Aged, where he lived for the past two years.

Sy and his wife, Ruth, raised six boys at their home on Cambria Avenue, where he was a neighborhood fixture, even in later years when he was often seen scooting up the street in his power wheelchair.

Trained as an electrical engineer, Sy was one of the pioneers in satellite communications. Working at RCA outside of Princeton, he helped design early satellites as the U.S. sought to compete with the Russian launch of Sputnik in 1957.

He worked on the top secret SCORE (Signal Communications by Orbiting Relay Equipment) project, the world's first communications satellite, which was launched on December 18, 1958, and relayed a Christmas message from President Dwight Eisenhower.

In 1968 he moved his family from New Jersey to Garrett Park, after taking a job at the Mitre Corp. in McLean, Virginia. He later worked at a number of other firms in the Washington area, including Fairchild and American Satellite Corp. After retiring in the mid 1990s, Sy remained active, spending many days at the Jewish Community Center in Rockville, where he participated in current events discussions, luncheons, and lectures. He was never one to shy away from a good argument, particularly when it came to politics.

He also converted part of his basement into a miniature train set, which included cars and stations and landscapes that he painstakingly assembled and painted. He would sit at the controls, with his conductor's hat on, and guide the trains, providing entertainment for children and grandchildren.

Sy was born in 1928 in New York to Max and Sophie Roth, immigrants from outside of Kiev in

what is now Ukraine. He contracted polio at the age of three, which he managed to overcome until his later years when weakening muscles resulted in his having to use a wheelchair. His parents, who later moved to Newark, struggled to make a living, running a candy shop and later working in the garment industry.

The family returned to Brooklyn, where Sy gained entry to the selective Brooklyn Tech High School and later Cooper Union, where he received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering. He received a master's degree in engineering from Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Sy married Irene Needleman in 1953 and they had three children, Bennett, Jason, and Jeremy. Tragedy struck in 1961 when Irene suddenly died at age 28, leaving Sy with three boys aged six and under. A little over a year later he married Ruth, who had two boys, Karl and Ken. Ruth and Sy then had Eliot in 1963, completing their Brady Bunch style family.

The family wants to thank all the neighbors in Garrett Park for their outpouring of support. Surviving Sy are his wife Ruth, his six sons, and grandchildren Jonathan, Erica, Jordan, Donnelly, and Sage.



**9am-9pm
Mon-Sat
9am-7pm
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Letter from the Mayor

When the engineers completed the 15-percent design of the proposed sidewalks in October, we put the results out for comment, collected and consolidated the comments, and submitted them to the engineers to proceed with the 30-percent design. We at that time hoped to receive the 30-percent design by now. That hasn't happened, and as is frequently the case, dealing with a bureaucracy such as the State Highway Administration (SHA) introduces delays into a timeline.

When we originally submitted the proposal for the Safe Routes to Schools grant, we explicitly included funding for a right of way survey to ensure that all work was conducted within the town-owned right of way. The grant approval included that survey. When SHA decided to use its own contractor to conduct the design, rather than having the town contract for one, it also decided that its available data were sufficient for determining the right of way and deleted the survey from the work to be performed.

At the completion of the 15-percent design, SHA reviewed the federal certification requirements for the grant and decided in December that a survey would be necessary. Pending the results of the survey, engineering work was put on hold. We responded immediately with a proposed statement of work to conduct the survey and requested authority to contract for it ourselves, using grant funds. On January 22 we received permission from SHA to move ahead with our own procurement using grant funds, and on January 23 we submitted the request for proposals to SHA for its review. On January 27 we received approval, and we sent out the request for proposals the next day, with bids due February 11. By the time you read this we will have chosen a contractor, obtained SHA approval to award a contract, and awarded the work. That will allow the survey to be conducted in March with a report in April. Once that occurs, the engineering should continue toward the 30-percent design point.

I want to make clear my personal position on this project: I fully support it. Otherwise I would not spend so much time working through the bureaucratic delays. I support it because it would provide a significant improvement in safety and mobility with what I consider to be acceptable changes in the streetscape. This project may be funded by a Safe Routes to Schools grant, but it is not only a children's safety project. It is a safety enhancement for persons with disabilities, for families, for children going to see their friends and going to scouts, the pool, soccer games, and music lessons. It also promotes public health and enhances the environment.

As I walked on the street a few days ago with my hearing reduced by ear muffs, I thought about how much I depend upon hearing to alert me of a car coming up from behind. I could not do that if I were deaf. As there are more electric cars which make minimal noise, will even more people be

affected? How well could I walk in the street if I were blind? Recently some of our more elderly (even more than I) residents have commented about how uncomfortable they were negotiating icy streets. Fear of falling in front of a car on an icy street is not unreasonable. For people with walkers or canes that is true even without ice. For people in wheelchairs, streets are exceptionally dangerous. Encouraging walking promotes a healthy lifestyle, and sidewalks allow more people to walk instead of drive. In that way, sidewalks also help the environment. As more people walk and interact with their neighbors, the town becomes more cohesive. Sidewalks are not only for children going to school. They are for everyone.

The 15-percent design documents have clarified several concerns about the impact of the project. As designed, the sidewalks would be four feet in width, rather than the original five feet specified by SHA. The project can be built completely within the existing town-owned right of way. Our Arboretum Committee has determined that it can be built without taking down any trees of greater than minimal size. In fact, that committee asked that some trees avoided by the designers be taken down because the town would remove them soon anyway. The Arboretum and Historic Preservation Committees identified numerous trees for which special tree root protection will be designed. The sidewalks can be built while preserving much of the existing landscaping, and we are committed to replanting or replacing plants which must be moved. The engineers have agreed, when 30-percent design work commences, to curve the sidewalks gently around trees and hardscape, and rather than having bright white sidewalks and square curbs, use tinted aggregate concrete and rolled concrete curbs so that the sidewalks and curbs will blend into the streetscape more harmoniously.

All this will involve change, but the world is changing, and we must accommodate that change while striving to preserve the essence of what makes Garrett Park so special. Cars are quieter than they used to be. More people drive aggressively, ignoring speed limit and one way signs. There are more and larger cars and trucks driving and parking on our roads, making it more difficult to see pedestrians. After years of education, drivers still fail to obey the law to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. We are more aware of our responsibility to provide access and mobility to persons with disabilities. We would like to be a positive force in promoting public health and the environment by encouraging walking.

So I return to my earlier statement: My personal position is that I fully support the sidewalks project because it would be a significant improvement in safety and mobility with what I consider to be acceptable changes in the streetscape.

Peter Benjamin