

Calendar Sun, Feb 11 Fri, Jan 19 Pick up your Bugle at PO lobby! Garrett Park Youth Art Show, Reception Penn Place Gallery, 3-5pm GP Film Society, "Cleo from 5 to 7," Town Hall, Dinner 7pm, Film 8pm Mon, Feb 12 Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8pm Sat, Jan 20 Garrett Park Farmers Market, Penn Place/CSX Parking Lot, 10am-1pm Tue, Feb 13 Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30pm, (winter hours Jan thru Mar) All Garrett Parkers welcome for potluck! Sat, Jan 27 Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6pm Garrett Park Farmers Market, Penn Valentine's Day Wed, Feb 14 Place/CSX Parking Lot, 10am-1pm Thur, Feb 1 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Thur, Feb 15 GPJams, Town Hall, 8pm Committee Meeting, Town Fri, Feb 16 GP Film Society, "I Know Where Office,10am I'm Going," Town Hall, Dinner 7pm, GPJams, Town Hall, 8pm Film 8pm Sat, Feb 3 Garrett Park Farmers Market, Penn Garrett Park Farmers Market, Penn Sat, Feb 17 Place/CSX Parking Lot, 10am-1pm Place/CSX Parking Lot, 10am–1pm Wed, Feb 7 Archives Committee Meeting, Town Presidents' Day, Town Office is Mon, Feb 19 Office, 7:30pm closed Thur, Feb 8 Historic Preservation Committee No Trash Pickup Meeting, Town Office, 7:30pm No Recycling Sat, Feb 10 Garrett Park Farmers Market, Penn Tue, Feb 20 Arboretum Committee Meeting, Place/CSX Parking Lot, 10am–1pm Town Office, 7pm Gives Collection, PO Lobby, 9am-Recycling Pickup 12noon

## This Old Tree - To Keep or Not to Keep

Your dedicated reporter assumed when leaving the house on a cold, icy evening to attend the Town Council meeting that the inclement weather meant he would probably be the only citizen in the audience. The steps from his house and the front walkway were dangerously slippery. So imagine how shocked he was upon arriving at the Town Hall that an unusually large audience of 17 people was present. Most of them, it turned out, were present for the same issue: probable removal of a single tree.

As readers may know, the long-planned sidewalk project is on the verge of starting. The Town has the so-called 100-percent design from the engineers and is ready to submit it to the Maryland State

government, with work likely to begin in a couple months. One part of this major project is replacement of the elderly, decrepit asphalt sidewalk along Clermont Avenue with a new ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-compliant concrete sidewalk. This will be wider than the existing sidewalk. All well and good, right? Ah! It turns out that in order to build this sidewalk, the engineers (both the original engineering firm picked by the State, and the replacement firm picked by the Town), several arborists (including the Town's Phil Normandy), and the Arboretum Committee decided that a particularly large tulip poplar would need to be removed.

This tree stands on Town property between 10914 and 10916 Clermont Avenue. The decision to remove the tree had been incorporated into the so-called 30 percent engineering plan of a couple years ago, so this decision was not new news. However, a group of residents living close to the tree came to the Town Council meeting to argue, some of them passionately, for keeping the tree by rerouting and modifying the planned sidewalk. Their presentations (mostly by Clermont Avenue residents John Tschirky, Jill Stevens, Suzi Gifford, and Terrance Sauvein) and the ensuing discussion with the Town Council and other residents in the audience went on for 90 minutes.

Your reporter took copious notes, but in retrospect, the many varied details would take far too much space in the Bugle. So here are just a couple of the highlights. The tree may be nearing the end of its natural life (although this is not certain) and building the new sidewalk will increase the stress on the tree which might shorten its remaining life. Should the tree be kept contrary to the advice of the arborists, the Town might become liable if the tree were to fall and cause damage not covered in its insurance policy (not to mention the possibility of bodily harm or death). In addition, the engineers do not think alternative designs for the sidewalk are feasible—the presence of roots would require moving and raising the sidewalk which would also create design problems for the driveways involved. On the other hand, the tree is much loved by the residents—large, shapely, etc and is a fitting part of Garrett Park as an arboretum.

Neither the arborists' conclusions about the tree's current and future health, nor the opinions of the current engineers have been made in writing. Those in the audience strongly in favor of keeping the tree were unwilling to accept the description of these conclusions related by members of the Town Council. At several points, passions were running so high that implicit (or not so implicit) accusations of disbelief or lack of trust were made by some in attendance. So how did all this tension get resolved?

The Mayor and Council agreed that they would request written memos from both the engineers (on the engineering problems involved in trying to work around the tree) and the arborists (on the health issues of the tree) prior to sending in the 100-percent engineering plan to the State government; and to share these memos with the Claremont residents. The Council will then need to hold an off-cycle Council meeting to consider these written opinions. All of this is intended to happen within the next several weeks.

Whew. But wait! Right after this discussion was finished, word came in of a water main break on

Kenilworth, a couple houses past the Town Hall. This had the effect of accelerating discussion of the remaining items on the agenda. A variance request from the Kellers concerning a proposed deck was approved unanimously on the grounds that the curvature of Cambria Avenue creates unusual or exceptional characteristics for the property, in the language of the variance ordinance. Next, Karen Thiel was unanimously approved for membership on the Archives Committee. And, finally, the mid-year budget adjustment, which had been introduced and discussed at the previous Council meeting, was unanimously approved.

The Town Manager's monthly report was presented in his absence, and contained no surprises, but did make special mention of the hard work of Butch and Frank to ensure during the two-week spell of very cold weather and some snow that streets were passable and the sidewalks around Penn Place were clear. Thank you Butch and Frank!

Finally, the meeting was adjourned close to 10 p.m. and the Mayor and others went out to check on the water main break. Your reporter gingerly headed down the icy sidewalk for a much delayed dinner at home.

Ed Lincoln, Bugle Reporter



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

#### Did You Know?

Back in the 1960s when we were all afraid of the USSR and the atomic bomb (we still are!), Mayor Friedman and a Committee of townspeople seriously considered building a series of bomb shelters around

Town. The idea was scrapped when, among other things, the local teenagers thought it was a great idea... The shelter would have beds, food and be accessible at all times!

Read more of Mayor Friedman's fascinating oral history in the Town Archives Office!

-Researched by Jane Solomon, Archives Committee



### **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Below is an updated and corrected list provided by the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee of volunteer drivers who are willing, when available, to provide rides for occasional medical and dental appointments, pharmacy and grocery needs, etc. Please try to call well in advance to allow sufficient time for yourself and the driver to get ready.

If you want to add your name to this list, please contact Elizabeth in the Town Office: 301-933-7488 or <a href="mailto:adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov">adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov</a>.

Volunteer Drivers	Street Area	a Code 301
Barbara Abraham	Montrose	949-1056
Glenda/Ken Ingham	Rokeby	933-5689
Kathy Chamberlin	Montrose	942-3822
Charlie Snyder	Montrose	942-2442
Beth Irons	Clermont	942-0994
Elin Quigley	Keswick	942-4567
Kay Hager	Cambria	949-8882
Veronica/Terry Sauvain	Clermont	942-5963
Ann Gordon	Cambria	933-0598
Louise Stomierowski	Kenilworth	946-2075
Mary Morse	Raleigh 24	0-418-9243
Stan McLeod	Kenilworth	949-3205
Michael Casassa*	Kenilworth	946-5396
*Michael can help with routine maintenance		
repairs		

## **Green Tip of the Month**

Still have a Christmas Tree? Remove the branches and use them as winter mulch over bulbs and perennials. Layer the boughs over the plants and soil to keep soil temps consistent and reduce the risk of early sprouting and winter damage that can occur during winter thaws.

### **Obituary**

### **Marvin H. Trattner (1928-2017)**

Marvin H. Trattner, of <u>11118 Kenilworth</u> Avenue, died on November 11th. He was 89 years old. He had suffered from myositis, a rare and debilitating disease.

Marvin is survived by his wife of 42 years, Ruth Patt Newman Trattner; and his stepchildren, Lyn Newman Silverman of Pittsburgh and George H. Newman of Philadelphia.

Marvin received a Master's degree from Fordham University and his Doctorate in Psychology from Catholic University. He formulated tests and did research at the U.S Office of Personnel Management.

Originally born in the Bronx, a borough of New York City, Marvin spent his last 26 years here in Garrett Park, in the same home that he and Ruth custom built in 1991. Some of his favorite pastimes included bridge and bicycling. He and Ruth also loved to travel and took many trips together, both stateside and abroad.

His neighbors remember him as very helpful, giving rides to those going to exercise classes and to doctors' appointments. He is very much missed.

A memorial service is planned for April 27. Further details will be posted in the Post Office, later in April.



The *Garrett Bugle* is a newsletter publication by the Citizens Association of Garrett Park and published 10 times a year. Publication is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Articles, ads and other content for the *Garrett Bugle* can be emailed to GPBugle@googlegroups.com.\*\*

#### **Citizens Association Officers**

Darshini Trivedi, President ~ Michael Lutkenhouse and Lesley Maloney, Vice-Presidents ~ Bridget Silverman, Treasurer ~ Sean Conlan, Secretary

Garrett Bugle Staff (GPBugle@googlegroups.com)
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**Reporters, Writers, Copy Editors:** Pat Aufderheide (Box 346), Carol Davies (Box 351), Cathy Gebhard (Box 41), Ed Lincoln (Box 348), Brian Mizoguchi (Box 256)

Ads and Distribution: Peggy Pratt (Box 158)

**Calendar and Subscriptions:** Joanne Schmader (Box 415) ~ First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (no bulk mail).

\*Editor and staff reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned <u>Letters to the Editor</u> will not be printed.

## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

It is with bittersweet sadness that we report the passing of Kathleen Campbell, 96, mother of GP resident Jean Campbell. Kathleen was a regular visitor to Garrett Park, usually spending six to eight weeks here every year. If you didn't know her, you might have seen her tootling around on her mobility scooter. She always looked forward to her time in Garrett Park; and her memories of the many friendships she made here, including the ubiquitous kindness of strangers, stayed with her to the end.



← Kathleen Campbell, tootling around on her scooter!

Kathleen with Daisy. →



You might be interested to know that Garrett Park resident, Nahid Tootoonchi and her students, will be featured in the Modern Calligraphy and Intercultural Communication exhibition at the Takoma Park Community Center. Nahid, who is also curating the exhibit, teaches advanced typography at Towson University. Calligraphy pieces will showcase scripts in Chinese,

Devanagary, English, Farsi, and Hebrew. The exhibition runs through March 4.

和供養住我書替 步频光次的時光響叮噹蟹叮噹蟹叮噹蟹叮噹

A Garrett Park resident sends in a special thanks to Butch and Frank, who shoveled mud out of Kenilworth Ave. neighbors' driveways after the water main break. In near freezing temperatures!!

## **Town Manager Notes**

*Christmas Tree Collection*: If you missed the scheduled Christmas tree pickup, put your tree by the curb. The Town maintenance crew will take it away.

Holiday Fund: Thank you to the many residents who generously gave donations to the Montgomery County Sanitation employees who take away our trash, recyclables, and yard waste. We will make a holiday gift to each of the six men and send letters of acknowledgement to all who gave.

**Town Website:** It's a good idea to frequently check the Town website for up to date notices and information about our government, committees, and services. We also suggest you look at the online Town calendar and encourage you to sign up for the Resident's Portal:

#### http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal.

The portal provides email information about town activities and events tailored to your interests, allows you to make online reservations for Town Hall, and gives you access to the town directory. We welcome your feedback on the site!

**Snow Reminder:** The recent ice storms caused treacherous driving conditions and were a reminder that more ice and snow is on the way. Remember to help the town crew by parking off of the street when snow is expected.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager



### From the GP Women's Club

Doug Mader outdid himself leading neighbors in song for the Annual Caroling event. The room was filled with all ages enjoying the songs and goodies. Thanks, Doug!

Santa rolled into Town in December and left with a long list of wishes from Garrett Park children. Special thanks to Lillian DelPriore, Nikki Forry, Chuan Luo and Elena Molina Kantor for welcoming Santa and having tasty treats for families. Super special thanks to Santa for always remembering Garrett Park!

Holiday Decorating Contest Results. As always, this year proved to be not only a treat for our judges, but a challenge as well, with many new and exciting scenes! Congratulations to all our neighbors on a fine Holiday decorating season, and a special nod to the award winners below:

Best Door/Window	Joseph	10910 Raleigh
Best Porch	Gifford	10918 Clermont
Kids Award	Schulp	4419 Cambria
Best Yard	DeLaGarza- Vergara	10919 Montrose
Most Creative	Hooton- Nguyen	10708 Shelley Ct
Most Charming	Almy	11006 Kenilworth
Green Award	Darkins	10902 Clermont
Honorable Mention	McCulloch- Goudie	11405 Rokeby
Best House	Liden	4605 Waverly
Elves' Award	Kratz	10704 Clermont

# Garrett Park Film Society 2018 Series

Mark your calendars! Here is the list of movies that will be shown in 2018 by the Garrett Park Film Society. The movies are shown in the Town Hall. You can subscribe to a membership, or just attend individual showings, as you like.

**January 19:** <u>Cleo from 5 to 7</u> (1962; France; PG-13) Drama: New Wave director Agnes Varda tells a story of a self-obsessed, young pop singer wandering across Paris while awaiting the results of a medical test that may show she has cancer.

February 16: *I Know Where I'm Going* (1945; UK; G) Romance: Joan Webster (Wendy Hiller), a headstrong and ambitious young woman travels to Scottish Hebrides to marry a rich industrialist who lives on the Isle of Kiloran (fictitious). Stranded by stormy weather on the Isle of Mull, Joan meets a handsome and penniless naval officer (Roger Livesey) who threatens her carefully laid plans.

March 16: <u>Denial</u> (2016; UK/USA; PG-13) Drama: Based on an actual case, acclaimed writer and historian Deborah E. Lipstadt must battle for historical truth to prove the Holocaust actually occurred when David Irving, a renowned denier, sues her for libel. Stars Rachel Weisz, Timothy Spall and Tom Wilkinson.

#### April 13: Jodorosky's Dune (2013;

USA/France; PG-13) Documentary: An exploration of cult film director Alejandro Jodorowsky's ambitious but ultimately doomed adaptation of Frank Herbert's seminal science fiction novel, *Dune*. Undertaken in the mid-1970s, the proposed cast included Orson Welles, Mick Jagger, David Carradine and Salvador Dali, featuring music by Pink Floyd and set design by some of the most provocative talents of the era, HR Giger and Jean 'Moebius' Giraud.

**June 15:** *The Tale of Princess Kaguya* (2013; Japan; PG) Anime. A bittersweet Japanese fairy tale of love, loss and mortality.

September 21: *King of the Hill* (1993; USA; PG-13) Drama: In his first Hollywood studio film, writer/director Steven Soderbergh crafted a "small jewel of a growing-up story" based on a memoir by A.E. Hotchner. The film recounts the "struggles of a resourceful and imaginative adolescent," forced to survive on his own during the Depression.

October 19: <u>No</u> (2013; Chile: R) Drama: The story of how an ad campaign took down dictator, Augusto Pinochet. Under international pressure, in 1988, Pinochet called a plebiscite on his presidency-a YES or NO to another eight years of his rule. Gael

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Garcia Bernal is the man behind the ad campaign. A "smart, darkly funny perspective on modern democracy and human nature."

#### December 14: Love & Friendship (2016;

USA/UK; PG) Comedy/Drama: Writer/director Whit Stillman's adaptation of a little known work by Jane Austen, *Lady Susan*, with all the wit and romantic complications one anticipates with Austen, and all the delights of a period drama the result. Stars Kate Beckinsale.

# GPFS presents: "Cleo from 5 to 7," January 19 at 8pm in the Town Hall



13) Drama: <u>Director Agnes Varda</u>, who was part of the French New Wave. She is considered a feminist director and, in "Cleo from 5 to 7," she addresses the objectification of women; not allowing others to

Cleo from 5 to 7 (1962; France; PG-

define Cleo, but giving her own vision. This film tells a story of a

selfobsessesd, young pop singer wandering across Paris while awaiting the results of a medical test that may show she has cancer.

As usual, *the menu for the evening is keyed to the film!* Main course is quiche (veg and meat options) with salad and baguette followed by dessert for \$10. Admission to the film is free to members and \$5/person for nonmembers.

Membership forms are available at the Post Office.

# Yoga for All Levels

Tuesdays, 6:15–7:30 pm, 8–9 pm Garrett Park Town Hall

Classes include stretching, alignment, restorative and breathing work, meditation, and relaxation.

"Tuesday night's class showed me how out of shape my core is!
Thank you for bringing your experience and knowledge into the
practice... not only is my mind refreshed, but my body says thank
you for the stretching and awareness"

Questions? Email Liz at gayatrimantra.liz@gmail.com Visit lilylotusyoga.com

#### **Citizens Association Notes**

It's a new year and that means it's time to mark your calendars for upcoming Citizens Association events. For those who may be new to Town, the Citizens Association puts on a number of town parties and events including the July 4th BBQ and Spooky Woods. We also host town meetings inspired and organized by the citizens of Garrett Park. For instance, last year we held a meeting on composting, and in previous years have featured meetings on fracking, storm water management, and MCPS school crowding. Some of our best meeting ideas come from you so please contact us with your ideas. This year also features the return of the Citizens Association Wine Tasting event (it's never too early to start "auditioning" bottles)!

2018 Save the Date

Month Event (date)

Jan Town Dinner (Sat, Jan 27)

Feb Open\*

Mar Open\*

Apr Candidate Forum (Wed, Apr 25)

May Wine tasting (TBD)

Jun Open\*

July 4th of July

AugOff

Sep Open\*

Oct Spooky Woods (TBD)

NovOpen\*

Dec Open\*

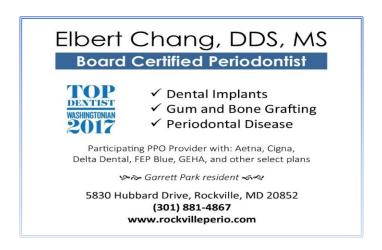
\*Future Meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Sean Conlan (<a href="mailto:sconlan@gmail.com">sconlan@gmail.com</a>) or Darshini Trivedi (<a href="mailto:darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com">darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com</a>), or send a note to Box 456.

Annual Dues. The Citizens Association 2018 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 <a href="https://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join">https://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join</a>.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Darshini Trivedi (<a href="mailto:darshinibtrived@gmail.com">darshinibtrived@gmail.com</a>) or Sean Conlan (<a href="mailto:sconlan@gmail.com">sconlan@gmail.com</a>).





# Green Banner Contribution Green Again!

This month's masthead, aka the Green Banner, is credited to Joanne Straceski on Keswick. Thank you for keeping us green!

If anyone would like to support the Green Banner in future months, please make out a check to the Citizens Association (CA) for \$45 with "Green Banner" in the subject line; and mail it to the CA at Box 456. If you would like to dedicate your sponsorship to someone or something, please also include a note to that effect. Thank you.



# Creative Contributions By Town Residents

#### This Old House

If the 1891 Queen Anne house with the three-story shingled tower at 11210 Kenilworth Avenue is on your walk, you might want to give a thought to Lucia and Herman Hollerith. In 1896 after renting the home of General Abbott at 4716 Waverly Avenue, they bought this house. Herman Hollerith developed a system of the punch, card reader and sorter inspired by his observations of conductors on trains. He noted conductors would hand-punch details around the edge of the ticket to identify the ticket holder.

Hollerith's electric tabulating system became IBM.

The house is designated as a Montgomery County landmark.

-Contributed by Marian Green

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### Song of the Veery

("My veery first time")

By Ken Ingham

On a weekday evening, two white tailed deer stare out of dense spring foliage with dark lustrous eyes. The intensity of their gaze makes me feel self-conscious, like an intruder. The sun is low and my silhouette must be conspicuous



as I walk toward them over a railroad crossing that was closed to automobiles about 25 years ago, and enter one of my favorite hiding places. It's a couple of acres of threatened woods a short walk from my home in Garrett Park, Maryland, a small suburban town just outside the Washington Beltway.

I call this little piece of wilderness, this last sizeable chunk of privately owned woods for several miles around, the C.M. Woods, after the last initials of the previous and current owners, Chisholm and Millard respectively. Okay, maybe wilderness is too strong a word. But it seems to me that wilderness has become a relative concept in a world whose species are falling faster than victims in a violent video game.



# What We're Cooking...

[Editor's note: This is the third in a monthly series from Nikki Forry. –Nikki



says, "My husband's great aunt was the most gracious, loving, and kind person I ever met. In honor of her, my husband's family put together a family cookbook with all of their favorite family recipes. Shuggie's Stew is one of our favorite recipes from this book. This hearty soup is perfect for the icy weather we are having. It is also super-easy and makes a lot."]

#### Shuggie's Stew

#### **Ingredients & Materials**

- 2-3 lbs ground chuck lightly browned and drained
- 4 cans diced tomatoes
- 2 potatoes (diced)
- 3 onions (diced)
- 3 carrots (diced)
- 1 package frozen corn kernels (16 oz)
- 1 package frozen black-eyed peas (16 oz)
- 1 package frozen green peas (16 oz)
- 1 package frozen edamame (16 pz)
- 1 T salt
- 1 T black pepper
- Tobasco/Worcestershire sauce
- 1 box chicken broth (4 cups)

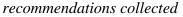
#### **Directions**

Bring just short of boiling. Simmer until done-approximately 5 hours.

~\*~ \* ~ \*

# What We're Reading...

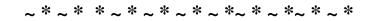
[Editor's note: The monthly series of book



by Brian Mizoguchi will resume next month.]

In the meantime, if you have any books you'd like to recommend, please send in your thoughts for the next edition of "What We're Reading" to Brian Mizoguchi, <a href="mailto:GPBugle@googlegroups.com">GPBugle@googlegroups.com</a>.

Brian Mizoguchi, Bugle Writer



## Letter from the Mayor

Gene and I are struggling as we try to put together a proposed FY 2019 Town budget to present to the Town Council and our citizens. We had thought that it would be pretty simple – more of the same – until the new tax act was passed by Congress and signed by the President. Our FY 2019 budget goes into effect in July of this year, and continues until June, 2019. The revenues we receive reflect the payments that Town residents make to the state and county governments during that period, all of which are governed by the changes reflected in that legislation. How do we predict the Town's income during that period when we have no idea how that act, and coming changes in state taxation, will affect our residents?

One factor is the federal state and local tax deduction that will now be capped. Many of our residents will no longer be able to take full advantage of that deduction. Since the Garrett Park property tax is one contributor to that total, should we consider a reduction in our Town property tax rate? If so, will we receive enough revenues from other sources to continue to provide the services we have become accustomed to if we reduce that source?

Since the state bases its income tax collections on the federal tax forms, if the federal tax receipts go down, as is projected, will the state increase its tax rate to maintain its income? If not, another source of revenue for the Town will decrease. If, on the other hand, many of us will experience an increase in federal taxes, as I suspect may be the case, a state tax rate increase would make the situation even worse for all of us, and perhaps the Town should look for an even larger decrease in other revenues to help out residents, since we cannot change our share of state income taxes.

Much of the annual change in Town revenues is affected by capital gains tax returns. When Town residents are selling assets, particularly stocks and mutual funds, the Town receives more money from the state income tax. In the past we have become reasonably adept at predicting how that might affect Town revenues by looking at the broad economy and stock market trends. That won't work at least for a couple of years. When people adjust their investments, as may occur right now and in the coming months as the elements of the tax act become more clear, that could affect Town revenues. Those actions are totally unpredictable at this time.

Since we are required by our Charter to propose a balanced budget, our expenditures budget must reflect our expected revenues, and therefore we are in a conundrum in determining how to proceed. I should point out that we have sufficient reserves and flexibility so that we can survive a year or two if we guess wrong, but we would then have to build up those reserves, which affects our expenditures in future years.

If any of you have some insights that may help us in our discussions, please share them with us. One of the best ways of doing that is on the Town Forum, which is contained within the Residents Portal of the Town website,

http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal/town-forum, to which access is limited to Garrett Park residents only. If you are not currently registered to access the residents only portion of the site, you can register by clicking the drop down on the top right of the home page. I will post this letter in the Forum.

Peter Benjamin





