

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 65

July 2018

No. 7

Calendar

Sat., Jun 30	Large Item Pickup: Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place	Sat., Aug 11	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place
Wed., Jul 4	4 th of July festivities (see p 5 and poster on p 9)	Mon., Aug 13	Town Council Meeting
Thurs., Jul 5	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm, Town Office (if there is business pending); GPJams 8:00 pm, Town Hall	Thurs., Aug 16	GPJams, 8 pm, Town Hall
Sat., Jul 7	GIVES Collection, 9 -12 pm, PO Lobby; Farmers Market, 9am – 1pm, Penn Place	Sat., Aug 18	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place; GIVES Collection
Mon, Jul 9	Town Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Town Hall	Tues., Aug 21	Arboretum Committee Meeting, 7 pm, Town Office
Thurs., Jul 12	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee Meeting 10 am, Town Office	Sat., Aug 25	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place
Sat., Jul 14	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1pm, Penn Place	Thurs., Aug 30	GPJams, 8 pm, Town Hall
Tues., Jul 17	Arboretum Committee Meeting, 7 pm, Town Office	Sun., Aug 20	Art at Penn Place, new exhibit, Suzi Gifford, until Sept. 15
Thurs., Jul 19	GPJams, 8 pm, Town Hall	Sat., Sep 1	Farmers Market, 9 am- 1pm, Penn Place
Sat., Jul 21	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1pm, Penn Place; GIVES Collection	Thurs., Sep 6	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee Meeting, 10 am, Town Office; GPJams, 8 pm, Town Hall
Sun., Jul 22	Art at Penn Place, new exhibit opening; Aspiring Artists; Meet the Artists Reception 3 – 5 pm, Penn Place	Sat., Sep 8	Farmers market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place; GIVES Collection, 9 am – 12 pm, PO Lobby
Sat., Jul 28	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1pm, Penn Place	Tues., Sep 11	Lunch Bunch, 12:30, Town Hall
Thurs., Aug 2	GPJams, 8 pm, Town Hall	Sat., Sep 15	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place; GIVES Collection
Sat., Aug 4	GIVES Collection, 9 am- 12 pm, PO Lobby; Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm Penn Place	Mon., Sep 17	Town Council Meeting
Thurs., Aug 9	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm, Town Office (if there is business pending)	Tues., Sep 18	Arboretum Committee Meeting. 7 pm, Town Office

Continued next page

Thurs., Sep 20	GPJams, 8 pm, Town Hall	Sat., Sep 29	Attic in the Street, Kenilworth Ave.; Farmers Market, 9 am – 1pm, Penn Place
Fri., Sep 21	Film Society presents <i>King of the Hill</i> , Dinner at 7, Film at 8, Town Hall	Thurs., Oct 4	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee Meeting, 10 am, Town Office; GPJams, 8 pm, Town Hall
Sat., Sep 22	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place	Sat., Oct 6	Large Item Pickup; Farmers Market, 9 am – 1pm, Penn Place
Tue., Sept 25	Pickup <i>Bugle</i> from PO Lobby		

Town Council Meeting Notes

Because the May Town Council meeting consisted mainly of swearing-in elected members, and Council members reporting on the current situation in the areas of their responsibility for the new Mayor, the June meeting was the first chance to see the new regime in action. There was a lot to deal with and the meeting lasted for three-and-a-half hours. A lot was said and done, making the process of distilling it down for the *Bugle* rather difficult. But here is your reporter’s assessment of what *Bugle* readers should know about the meeting.

Mayor Kacky Chantry began the meeting with a set of opening remarks to explain what she has been doing in the past month to get up to speed on the myriad issues in the town: meeting employees, reviewing the budget, becoming familiar with the situation at Penn Place (needs some repairs) and the Town Hall (needs some cosmetic repair to improve appearances until major renovations), meeting with the State Highway Authority about the sidewalk project, discussing the storm-water problem at the end of Rokeby, etc. In conclusion, the Mayor noted that her approach on all these issues is to pursue consensus in resolving issues.

One innovation as part of this new approach is what Mayor Chantry calls “Parking Lot” items. This is simply a list of issues coming up in the course of the meeting on which further discussion, administrative action, or perhaps Council action are needed. To create this list, Elizabeth Henley (Assistant Town Manager) wrote down the items on an easel. June’s meeting opened, therefore, with a review, mostly by the Mayor, of all the items that had been put into the “Parking Lot” at the May meeting. There were 15 of these, so space constraints preclude listing them here (presumably the list will be posted on the town website).

The meeting then moved to “Residents Presentations,” of which there were two. John Tschirky informed the Mayor and Council of a problem with WSSC, which recently replaced the water line connection from the main to a property on Clermont. The trench they dug cut through tree roots, something that could be a problem in terms of tree

protection (root-friendly dirt removal processes apparently exist but were not used by WSSC’s contractors). Some discussion proceeded as to whether the town can get WSSC to behave differently or at least give more advance warning of such work.

The second presentation was by Jean Horan in her capacity as President of the Pool Board. Visitors to the pool (e.g. at times of swim meets) attempt to park on both sides of Raleigh Avenue at or just beyond the intersection of Raleigh and Cambria. The road is narrow and there is supposed to be no parking on the right-hand side, but this is often ignored despite the placement of cones on that side of the street (e.g. removal of the cones by people insistent on parking there). As your reporter can attest from trying to drive through on a recent Saturday morning, it is virtually impossible to drive through with cars parked on both sides. Her request was for the Town to paint a clear yellow “no parking” strip on that side of Raleigh, along with two “no-parking” signs. Some discussion followed, and the Town will look into the situation.

Next on the agenda was approval of the agenda. A couple of proposed agenda items from Council members either had not appeared on the draft agenda sent to town residents the week before or were shifted (i.e. from an action item to discussion item). Council member Wegner requested that a work session be organized (i.e. without the public present) for the Council and Mayor to sort out such issues. This meeting will occur prior to the July Council meeting. For now, the agenda was amended in accordance with Council members’ wishes and was approved.

Having cleared that hurdle, the meeting moved on to approval of the minutes of the May meeting. Council member Wegner noted some inaccuracies in statements in the minutes attributed to him and provided corrected language. As amended, the minutes were approved.

Now came consideration of action items, of which there were three. The first was the appointment of Jill Stevens to fill a vacant spot on the Archives Committee, which was easily and unanimously done. Then came the question of an August break for the

Council meeting. Mayor Chantry was in favor of a break, the Council was not, on the grounds that there is now so much on the agenda under the leadership of a new Mayor that a meeting in August is necessary. The Council voted in favor of the meeting.

Now came the *pièce de résistance* (if my rusty French is correct) of the evening: The Tulip Poplar on Clermont Avenue. Council member Jane McClintock took the lead in making the case for a vote on removing the tree and provided a text for her motion. Discussion, as has been the case during several Council meetings since the issue was raised in January, went on for a long time. Council members Wegner and Welch joined McClintock in making the case for removal, which centered on the health of the tree, concerns of residents across the street from the trees (toward whose houses the tree is leaning), and legal/moral responsibility of the Council should the tree were to fall and cause damage or injury. John Tschirky and other audience members raised various points in favor of keeping the tree, providing a basic argument that the health of the tree is better than the Council believes. Most of the arguments had been raised before, a new item was a further health assessment by one of the Arborists consulted 4 months earlier (Bartlett). According to those who spoke at the meeting, the report indicated that two main roots of the tree are diseased (which will spread to other roots), but others mentioned that it concluded there was low risk of the tree falling. Council member Phil Schulp raised the issue of other Tulip Poplars on town property and provided an amendment to the motion calling for the Town to undertake an assessment of all of them. The Mayor preferred that the vote be postponed at least to the July meeting to allow more time for discussion and consensus building (including a planned visit at her request by Bartlett to meet with residents). But various members of the Council argued that this issue has been under discussion for six months, and the tree health and legal liability issues thoroughly researched by Council members. Under the Town Charter, the Town Council has legal authority for decisions concerning planting and removal of trees. So, the motion as amended proceeded to a vote and it passed unanimously. So that's it folks; this lengthy and contentious issue has come to an end.

With the end of the tree issue, the meeting moved on to "Discussion Items" of which there were six. Two of them deserve mention here. First was the announcement that the position of Archivist has been filled by Ray Maxwell, who was in attendance. He was greeted with a round of applause. If you want to talk with him, he is currently working Tuesday through Thursday.

Second, Council Member Stephen Paczkowski reported on the beginning of the Town Hall renovation process, which involves discussion of the

purposes of the building in the future and what kind of renovations would best meet those needs. He will make a presentation about this at the July meeting (prior to the start of the formal Council meeting—stay tuned for announcements from the Town about this).

The other discussion items concerned the process of finding a replacement for Gene Swearingen (moving forward), reports on what Council members learned at the Maryland Municipal League meeting the previous week, work by the Arboretum Committee to find a contractor to inventory all trees on town property and create a strategic arboretum plan, and the status of the sidewalk project (currently under review by the Federal Highway Authority with no time frame for a response). Perhaps in future Council meetings there will be more space in this report to provide more detail on these issues.

As usual, the meeting concluded with the Town Manager's financial report, there the news is good. Tax revenues (both property tax and income tax) revenues continue to run above budget (by more than \$50,000). This will provide a comfortable carryover into the new fiscal year (beginning July). Woo-hoo!

By now, the hour had reached 11:00 p.m. and the meeting finally ended.

Ed Lincoln, *Bugle* Reporter

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 darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com*

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Below is an updated list provided by the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee of volunteer drivers who are willing to provide rides for occasional doctors' appointments, pharmacy visits, grocery shopping, etc. Please call to give as much notice as possible so that we can help you in the best possible way.

Volunteer Drivers

- Barbara Abraham (Montrose): 301 949-1056
Courtenay Culp (Montrose): 301-933-3617
Glenda or Ken Ingham (Rokeby): 301 933-5689
Kathy Chamberlin (Montrose): 301 942-3822
Charlie Snyder (Montrose): 301 942-2442
Janet Galope (Flanders): 301-613-0451
Beth Irons (Clermont): 301 942-0994
Elin Quigley (Keswick): 301 942-4567
Kay Hager (Cambria): 301 949-8882
Veronica & Terry Sauvain (Clermont): 301 942-5963
Ann Gordon (Cambria): 301 933-0598
Barbara Pearlman (Rokeby): 301-942-2234
Jane Salomon (Waverly): 301-946-7556
Louise Stomierowski (Kenilworth): 301 946-2075
Mary Morse (Raleigh): 240-418-9243
Stan McLeod (Kenilworth): 301-949-3205
Michael Casassa (Kenilworth): 301 946-5396*
- *Michael can help with routine maintenance repairs

If you would like to have your name added to this list, please contact Elizabeth in the Town Office: 301-933-7488 or adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov

Town Manager's Notes

Street Sweeping: Town streets will be swept on Thursday, June 28, in preparation for the July 4 festivities. The rain date for sweeping will be Friday June 29. Please remember to park off the street to allow the sweepers to clean from curb to curb.

Parking Regulations. After many months of work by the Town Council and staff, we have updated traffic and parking regulations. These regulations provide detailed guidance street by street within the Town. The Council's recent changes to the parking ordinances allow the Town the authority to enforce the regulations. They are posted on the Town website for your review and comments.

There will be a grace period when warnings rather than actual tickets will be issued. The dates for starting both the warning and official ticketing will also be posted on the website. If you have any questions or suggestions, please give me a call: 301-933-7488.

Don't forget to check the Town website often, and if you have not done so, sign up for the resident's portal! www.garrettparkmd.gov
Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

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Citizens Association Notes



"Y'know...the wine's okay, but I'm drunk on town gossip."

We started out the month of June with the 2nd annual Garrett Park Citizens Association (GPCA) Wine Tasting. Wine aficionados from all over town brought some excellent wines to sample while the rest of us picked up a bottle with a clever label. Henri and Chris Keller did both, bringing a very nice bottle of Michael David 2015 Petite Petit with circus elephants on the label. That bottle sparked a number of conversations about the importance the label and clever naming when choosing a wine. Jim Cole fooled us all by bring a bottle without any label at all. It was a 20-year-old sparkling red wine that had shed its label sometime over the last decade. While one might assume that sparkling wines are not typically meant to be aged, this one was very good.

Of course, the elephant in the room (in addition to the one on the Kellers' wine) was the ongoing Stanley Cup final game featuring the Washington Capitals. Folks that were concerned that we would only #RockTheRed or that it would be #ALLCABS, had nothing to worry about; the selection of wines was wonderful. The GPCA would like to thank everyone who helped with setup and cleanup. Thanks to Mary Rutkay for the use of her wine glasses. Special thanks to Sean Conlan, Todd Del Priore, and Darshini Trivedi for coming together like Voltron to stream the hockey game over a hodgepodge of equipment, adapters, and cables.

Fourth of July Festivities

The Garrett Park July 4th parade and BBQ are almost here. As usual, Dave Almy has drawn a poster that perfectly captures this year's theme "Garrett Park Celebrates Women". See the poster in this month's July 2018

Bugle for Parade and BBQ details, including the 18th annual softball game! Also, we are looking for volunteers to help out. Please contact Darshini Trivedi at darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com or sign up using the link below if you are able to help.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c48a4aa2da31-july>

Parade Registration: For this year's parade, we are offering pre-registration for those of you who would like to participate in the parade. Please click the link below to complete the registration process (details provided in the link). On the day of the event, all you will have to do is go to the registration desk, check your name/category, and pick up your bib.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/99W7WNH>

(this link has been distributed via the GP Neighbors listserv.)

Pre-registration will close on July 2nd. Onsite registration will also be available from 9:30 to 10:30 am on the day of the event for those of you who are not able to pre-register. However, please consider pre-registering as it will help us streamline the process on the day of the event.

Parade route: The parade will start at the GP Elementary School Parking Lot at 10:30 am and it will go on Kenilworth, turn right on Clyde, and end at Penn Place.

Post-parade festivities will be at Penn Place. If the forecast calls for rain, the music and BBQ events will be at the Town Hall. We will make a call by 6pm on July 2.

If you have any questions or comments for the Citizens Association, please send a note to Box 456 or e-mail Darshini Trivedi (darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com) or Sean Conlan (sconlan@gmail.com).

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.

Town Hall Renovations

The Town Hall is due for a rehabilitation and the next chapter in its history. To kick off the process, an introductory presentation with time for questions and/or comments has been organized at the Town Hall on July 9, from 6:45-7:20 pm, prior to July Town Council meeting. This presentation will include a history of the building, its existing conditions, and the upcoming planning process. An Open House is planned for the Fall with date yet to

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be determined.

Stephen Paczkowski
Town Council, Co-chair
Historic Preservation Committee

Summer Job Seekers

Please see the list in the printed *Bugle*. It is the *Bugle*’s policy not to include names of minor children, private telephone numbers, or private email addresses in the *e-Bugle*.

If you would like to be included in the Summer Jobs list in the next *Bugle*, please call or email Elizabeth Henley in the Town Office (adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov, 301-933-7488) with your name, age, phone number, e-mail address, and jobs you can do (babysitting, yard work, etc).

Creative Contributions by Town Residents

Tree Talk



For years, I've lived on this road
Tall and straight, my roots winding
I might daresay even overgrown
My tenure in the soil binding.

Through the mid-century,
I have seen progress lost and progress made
Provided you with unending shade
While you walk with your loved ones under me.

People will come and people will go
My leaves grow and grow
Some things change, some remain the same
Year after year, my colors aflame.

Dearest residents, do not be sad
Let us celebrate the time we have had
Now, it is my turn to bid you adieu
From my old roots, will spring life anew.

Poem by Kavitha Nallathambi
Photo Credit: Prakash Rath
(Cambria Avenue)

Clermont Tulip Poplar

I will venture a guess that there will be at least one other article or letter about the tree at 10916 Clermont Avenue in this month's Bugle. The tree became an action item at the June Town Council meeting, where a 5-0 vote by Council now leads to the tree being removed in the near future. It was not an easy decision for Town Council members. I can say that for sure for myself, but I also heard the same from every other council member as we discussed the tree over the last 6 months.

I found there to be one strong reason to keep the tree, outweighed by a large and growing list of reasons to remove it.

In the "keep the tree" category, there is a passionate and hardworking group of residents on the west side of the 10900 block of Clermont, who are fond of the tree and worked hard to explore possible ways to keep it.

In the "remove the tree" category are the following:

1. The Town procured 6 different studies by arborists, including Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Bartlett Tree Experts, a large company that specializes in tree care. The DNR report called for removing the tree as soon as possible and a Bartlett report listed evidence of root rot and fungus.
2. Root rot is not a surprise for a tree that is on the curb line, surrounded by street paving that limits aeration of soil the tree is rooted in.
3. Some reports classified the tree as a relatively low risk. Other reports listed it as high risk. Council took all reports into account, but could not choose to favor ones that say low risk and discount ones that say high risk or root rot.
4. All reports noted the impact of upcoming sidewalk construction and some recommended rerouting the sidewalk away from the tree, and most of those rerouting recommendations asked for protection zones from the tree that are not feasible in practice with accessibility requirements, grades, driveways, property lines etc.
5. The tree sits in the curb line with slightly more of the tree in the street vs out of the street. The entire town of Garrett Park is a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A main basis of that listing is the 19th century town plan, created by a team of an engineer and a horticulturalist, with formal curving and straight streets. Keeping the tulip

poplar tree where it stands would mean routing the new curb significantly into the paved area of the street, changing the lines of the historic street. I've worked in historic preservation for over 20 years, and I don't see rerouting that street edge at all appropriate. Maryland Historic Trust has reviewed the safe routes to school sidewalk project for the required Section 106 process. To date there is no comment from MHT about the curb since tree is shown removed on those plans and a curb in line with the rest of the block is depicted.

To me, number 5 is crucial and should have been the starting point. It's still an issue that is on top of safety concerns. It is unfortunate, since some residents will miss this tree, but it must come down.

Stephen Paczkowski, Town Council Member
Co-Chair, Historic Preservation Committee

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Letter from the Mayor

If life has you going 100 mph, I hope you are braking frequently to take time to “smell the flowers”. We have had to bear the mugginess and repressed atmosphere of late, but the lush greenery of our tree canopy and homeowners’ gardens flush with flowers have helped to make it tolerable. I hope you agree. This is after all an arboretum. Our arboretum. Originally designed by ordinance in 1898 and officially declared in 1977. So, if you haven’t already done so, take a moment and step back, look around and take it all in. Our Town is a rare and verdant community in the middle of a hardcore cement-encased city. Let’s revel in it!

I mention the above because in my first 4 weeks as Mayor, I have been busy. (Perhaps you have even seen me scooting around on my electric scooter!) But I have still taken time to enjoy the sights and smells of our sylvan oasis. Doing so helps to keep me grounded and thankful.

So, I have been busy:

I have met with our Town employees and contract staff, including our new Town archivist and our Town’s accountant, arborist, attorney, and office assistant. I have met with our Town engineers and financial auditors. I have met with officials from the MD State Highway Administration about the SRTS project and with the County’s Storm Water Management/Erosion Control Office about the volume of storm water runoff at the end of Rokeby that has been eroding one of our neighbor’s backyards. I also have spoken with independent arborists and a couple of tree service companies about our Town trees. I have been reviewing the status of our Town’s finances and continuing my reading of the Town charter/ordinances, resolutions and past meeting minutes. In addition, I spent 3 days at the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Conference in Ocean City, along with Gene Swearingen, Elizabeth Henley, and Phil Schulp, learning about new rules and best practices and talking with small towns about their challenges and solutions.

I also have been talking with Town staff and council members about areas in Town that need work. For instance, we have had little to no exterior maintenance done to Penn Place in many years. Paint is peeling, wood is rotting, and the external metal stairway is rusting and showing open holes in the cement steps. This is a safety hazard and will be a top

priority to fix. In addition to these issues, I have asked Gene to get estimates for refinishing the garden teak benches outside of the Town Hall and at a minimum putting a coat of paint on the front and sides of the building. It’s the least we can do while Stephen Paczkowski leads us through a kick-off session later this summer to help us consider how we might like to use this building in the future and the kind of renovations needed to make it happen. We also are exploring the use of permeable material to replace the tilting, cracking cement and asphalt sidewalks (not in the SRTS project) along Waverly and Oxford. And we are buying a new wood chipper to replace the one that is perpetually in the shop!

Even as busy as it has been these past 4 weeks, I remain positive and energized, grateful and humble. With the help of a great staff, I am learning a lot and seeing the Town in a new light. We have much to do, things to finish, and things to repair. I am confident that by working together, listening to one another and striving for consensus, we will be able to accomplish these things. Let’s just be sure we stop every now and then to “smell the flowers!”

Kacky Chantry

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7:30 am Fun Run registration - All ages
Penn Place Parking lot.

8:00 am 2 mile Fun Run / Walk - Penn Place

9:45 am Parade forms. Garrett Park Elem.

10:30 am Parade begins

1:00 pm Pool Events

3:00 pm 18th Annual Softball Game

(This tradition is in
Jeopardy - you can
save it!!!)

G.P. Elementary

Music by Garrett Park's own Border State

Penn Place - after the parade

(IF RAINING - AFTER PARADE EVENTS WILL BE IN TOWN HALL)