

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 66

October 2019

No. 8

Calendar

Fri., Sep 27	Pickup your <i>Bugle</i> at the Post Office Lobby	Sat., Oct 19	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1pm, Penn Place
Sat., Sep 28	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place	Sun., Oct 20	Autumn Tree Walk, 1 pm, Penn Place
Thurs., Oct 3	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Town Office	Mon., Oct 21	Town Council Meeting, 7:30, Town Hall
Sat., Oct 5	Large Item Pickup: Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place, GIVES Collection, P. O. Lobby	Wed., Oct 23	Arboretum Committee Presentation, 7:30 pm, Town Hall
Tues., Oct 8	Lunch Bunch, 12:30 pm, Town Hall	Sat., Oct 26	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place; Spooky Woods, 7:00 pm
Sat., Oct 12	Attic in the Street, GIVES Collection at Attic in the Street, Farmers Market, 9am – 1pm, Penn Place	Sun., Oct 27	Halloween Parade, 1:00 pm
		Thurs., Oct 31	Halloween!
Fri., Oct 18	Film Society presents <i>Ida</i> , Dinner at 7, Film at 8, Town Hall		

Town Council Meeting Notes

Ace reporter Dr. Ed Lincoln was unavailable to report on the September Town Council, so he designated this cub reporter to serve that function. If this report is a good one, this cub reporter gets the credit. Complaints, on the other hand, should be directed to Dr. Lincoln

All Town Councilmembers were in attendance, as was Mayor Kacky. The sole missing Councilmember was Jane McClintock, who has indicated that she will be stepping down from the Council no later than the October Council meeting. Mayor Kacky indicated that it would likely be a short Council meeting, although the meeting lasted almost 2.5 hours. Areas of discussion are below in order of presentation.

New Sidewalk Proposal for the South Side of Strathmore in Front of Holy Cross. Mayor Kacky indicated that our local district officials have indicated support for a new sidewalk in front of Holy Cross. The State Highway Administration (SHA) has responded that it is open to doing a “field walk” with

representatives from surrounding communities to determine whether it is feasible and desirable.

Funding Carryover from FY 2019 to FY 2020. It was noted that the funding carryover into the new fiscal year was a healthy \$349,000.

Approval of Prior Months’ Minutes. There was a lengthy discussion of the approval of four prior Council monthly minutes. Three of the approvals pertained to 2018 Council meetings, and one was for July 2019. The issues raised were largely two-fold: 1) the draft minutes were only released to Councilmembers in the past several days and not all Councilmembers had the opportunity to review them properly (especially discussed by Councilmember Paczkowski); and 2) one of the 2018 minutes – for August 1, 2018 – included an addendum written by Mayor Kacky describing her views regarding “...the anger, suspicion and emotional conduct...” at recent Council meetings, and, as such, should not be included in the minutes because the addendum was not an “action item” (especially discussed by Councilmember Wegner). In the end, all four minutes were unanimously approved by the Council, with one “tweak” in language proposed by Councilmember Schulp. Regarding the August 1,

Continued next page

2018, minutes, it was agreed that the Mayor Kacky addendum was an attachment to the minutes, and hence was not part of the minutes “per se.”

Fall Leaf Removal. Approval was requested by the Town Office for a draft contract with Bethke Landscaping for fall leaf removal. The draft contract includes a 3% increase in price for this fall, which also applies to the next two years. There will be weekly pick-ups from mid October to mid December. And perhaps Bethke will be willing to pick up after mid December if folks continue to put out leaves. Councilmember Wegner asked the Town to check whether Bethke (hopefully) composts the leaves. The Council approved signing the contract.

Reschedulings. The Sept. 21 Council Retreat will be rescheduled for later in the month. The Oct. 14 Council Meeting (on Columbus Day) is rescheduled to Oct. 21, and the Nov. 11 Council Meeting (on Veterans Day) is rescheduled to Nov. 18.

Mitigating Tree Loss. Mayor Kacky suggested that it might be appropriate to consider whether the Town should intervene to avoid the loss of valued trees on private property. All Councilmembers agreed that it was a sensitive issue that would need to be handled judiciously. The issue will be referred to the Arboretum Committee for initial review.

Filling of Councilmember McClintock’s Position. It was noted that there are two applications to fill the seat being vacated by Councilmember McClintock. Councilmember Schulp posed two questions: 1) should there be more formal procedures for reviewing applicants; and 2) should there be more formal procedures regarding how departing Councilmembers resign (e.g., a formal letter of resignation). Most of the discussion pertained to the first point. No firm decisions were reached, but it was decided that Councilmembers should pose questions to the two applicants by no later than mid September to facilitate a Council decision on filling the slot, if possible, by the end of the month.

SRTS Sidewalk Project. Mayor Kacky reported that the SHA was now satisfied with all the paperwork. However, she reported that the State might insist that the project be signed off on by the State AG. She hopes to get a “notice to proceed” by the end of the month, in which case the project could start quickly.

Other Issues:

- Town Hall. Some temporary, cosmetic changes have been made to the exterior until a plan is in place for more comprehensive improvements.
- Land Use. County Council seems to be moving ahead on allowing small “cottages” on private property. Of course, the Town has its own land use ordinances.
- Parking Issues. Enforcement of parking by the County within Garrett Park has encountered a slowdown under the new County management. Also, bamboo on private property near some Town intersections is causing some “line of sight” problems for drivers. Hopefully, these issues will soon be resolved.

- Flashing Light at Keswick and Strathmore. There is slow progress with SHA associated with improving the flashing light intersection. While Councilmember Wegner hoped to get all issues resolved before the swim pool opened this year, resolution will now extend into the fall and/or winter.

Ken Schwartz, Able *Bugle* Reporter Stand-in

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 garrettbugle@gmail.com*

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

Town Manager’s Notes

What’s New? See the Town website for a now-complete set of property right-of-way maps. Montgomery County has made improvements to Garrett-Waverly Park, and more improvements are planned. Over the summer, certain Town roads were repaved, the installation of the gutter and gutter heating system on Penn Place was completed, and Town Maintenance Staff began painting Town Hall.

Important Dates.

October 5 – Large Item Pickup. Place items curbside no later than **Friday**. The haulers can accept anything that two people can carry including appliances such as: washers, driers, refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers. **NO paints, tires, pesticides or other toxic material.**

Beginning October 15 – Leaves will be collected once per week as early in the week as possible. Place leaves in rows alongside the curb, and remove sticks, rocks, trash, and other debris that can damage the machinery. Shredded leaves or grass clippings should be bagged and put out for the regular yard waste collection on Mondays. Rain or inclement weather will delay leaf collection. Parents, please discourage your children from playing in leaves along the curb.

October 21 – The October Town Council meeting will be held October 21 instead of October 14, since October 14 is Columbus Day, a Federal Holiday. The Town Office will be open October 14.

Communication. If you haven’t already, please sign up for the resident’s portal, as it provides the Town Office with one more way to reach you. Register at www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal

Leaf Raking & Yard Work Assistance. 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 to add their name to our list.

Permits. A Garrett Park building permit is required when a new structure is to be built including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is in addition to the required Montgomery County permit. To save time, complete your Garrett Park permit and submission of plats and drawings before requesting a County permit. Permit applications and payment can be completed online at www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits

Trees. This summer, the State Highway Administration (SHA) pruned and removed trees and brush along Knowles Avenue, including three large trees that were a safety concern. The Town's tree contractor pruned or removed several trees as part of regular maintenance and as a result of the July 21st storm.

As always, please reach out to the Town Office with any questions or concerns, 301-933-7488 or managerandrea@garrettparkmd.gov.

Andrea Fox, Town Manager

Citizens Association Notes

Hope you had a great summer! It's hard to believe that it's already fall, but we can't wait to celebrate Halloween with Garrett Park's annual festivities. Mark your calendars: Spooky Woods will be Saturday, October 26, 7:00-9:00 pm, and the Halloween Costume Parade will be Sunday, October 27, 1:00pm. Enter Spooky Woods by Penn Place, and gather for the parade just north of the traffic light on Kenilworth. In order to make these events happen, we need lots of volunteers! For instance, for Spooky Woods, we'll need a minimum of 5 scare stations and several ushers. Please sign up for the various slots here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E44A4AB2A6FB6-garrett1>.

Please note that in the event of rain, we'll need to cancel Spooky Woods, so here's to hoping for a scarily clear night!

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Attic in the Street

The Garrett Park Women's Club is pleased to announce the annual Attic in the Street town wide street sale. The sale will be held on **Saturday, October 12th, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** (rain date: October 13). Attic in the Street is a town wide garage sale held annually in the fall. It takes place on Kenilworth Avenue, between Strathmore and Oxford. That block of the street is closed to cars during the sale. It's a great place to find a good buy, socialize with neighbors, and enjoy refreshments.

Spaces are available for sellers at \$20 for one space, or \$35 for two spaces, and there are a limited number of spaces, so register early! (Last year we filled up before the deadline date!). To register, pick up a form at the Post Office, or send your name, address, telephone, email address, number of spaces requested, and check (made payable to the Garrett Park Women's Club) to: Garrett Park Women's Club, P.O. Box 494, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Once you register, you will receive an email confirmation and other details about the event. The registration deadline is October 5th (postmark date).

For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please contact Jim Cole at jimcole23@gmail.com.

Arboretum Committee Notes

As summer draws to a close – very, very slowly as these 90-degree days of late September hang on – Garrett Park is gearing up for a beautiful fall display. According to Town Arborist Phil Normandy, the wet July and August and a hopeful last burst of rain in late September and early October will make this autumn's colors a palette brighter than we have seen in several years.

The Arboretum Committee has been working throughout the summer on putting the finishing touches on the Comprehensive Arboretum Plan for the Town of Garrett Park – and we are planning a Town Meeting for Wednesday, October 23rd, where representatives of Natural Resources Design, the contractor who conducted the Town Tree Inventory and has set up the ARC GIS system for our trees, and the Committee, will roll out the Comprehensive Plan and answer questions about how it will benefit the Town. So please save the date!

Additionally, on Sunday, October 20th, at 1:00 pm, Phil Normandy will conduct our annual Fall Tree Walk. Note this is a bit earlier than previous years – but hopefully we will be able to view more trees in full hue. Please meet in front of the Post office at 1:00, and be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and dress appropriately – it just might not be 90 degrees by that date. We never know exactly where Phil will lead us on the walk, which usually lasts about two hours, because it will depend on what is most colorful and interesting at the moment – but be assured that it will be a fun and instructive day.

Please feel free to come for all of the walk, or peel off when you feel like it. And in addition to our human residents, well-behaved dogs are always welcome on the walk, and unlike some neighboring communities (i.e. Chevy Chase), we do not impose barking restrictions on our canine friends.

Our arboretum is in good shape. Mr. Gregg, our town tree contractor has been conducting removals and prunings throughout the summer, and Butch, Frank and George, our town staff, have been conducting routine maintenance.

We look forward to seeing you at both the Fall Tree Walk and at the Town Tree Meeting!

Michael Speker, Arboretum Committee Chair

Town Resident Contributions

From the Family of Kenneth “Kenny” Jacobson

We wish to thank all those who attended the June 30 memorial service at the Garrett Park Town Hall or who in other ways offered their support. The kind sentiments expressed by Garrett Park neighbors and other caring friends have been a comfort to us all.

Submitted by Ruth Roth

GIVES gives to those in need SAVE THE DATE!

Please mark your calendar now and reserve the evening of Sunday Nov 10 from 5 to 7 pm for the next GIVES Soup Supper @ Garrett Park Town Hall.

Look for more details in the November Bugle.

Submitted by Rana Koll-Mandel

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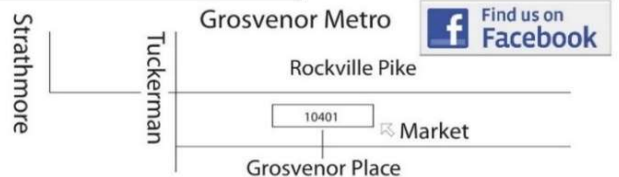
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Letter from the Mayor

I hope everyone had a nice summer and found ways to stay cool.

Although August provided a respite from our regular monthly Town Council meetings, there was plenty of Town business to take care of. Our staff gave the Town Hall façade a much-needed and appreciated cosmetic paint job. They performed routine maintenance and service repairs in and around Penn Place, including plumbing and electrical repairs. And Town equipment and machinery were serviced and repaired. Staff also contributed to clearing many of the downed trees from our roads after several recent heavy storms. Town Manager Andrea Fox was instrumental in coordinating contractual agreements with our service vendors. One of these included the resurfacing and paving of some roads, including installation of new curbing in strategic areas to help direct the runoff of stormwater. –Be sure to read the Town Manager’s notes in this Bugle edition for more information.

Speaking of stormwater, the Stormwater Management Task Force (SWMTF) was also busy this summer. Members met several times with residents to examine the impacts of the stormwater runoff occurring on their respective properties. These sites are at the north ends of Clermont/Montrose and Kenilworth/Rokeby. SWMTF chair Chuck Berry and Council liaison Hans Wegner led discussions with members and residents on the studies and the proposed solutions provided by our Town civil engineers. After considering the options, residents’ concerns, and environmental impacts, the Task Force agreed on modified solutions that will be less intrusive and less costly. Next steps will be to circle back with our residents, civil engineers, and the County. The ad hoc Parking and Traffic Committee, led by Councilmember Phil Schulp, also met several times with residents to discuss parking and traffic concerns next to Wells Park. Their immediate objectives were to improve pedestrian and driver safety and to slow traffic. They reached consensus on the placement of new road signs designating no parking areas and children at play. By prohibiting parking along the Rokeby curve where it intersects with Argyle, the sight lines for pedestrians, bikers and drivers are now markedly improved. Town staff also painted 15 feet of yellow curbing on either side of the entrance to Wells Park to keep the area clear and visible for visitors to the park. And the new signage depicting children at play will, we hope, encourage drivers to slow down. My thanks to Town staff, council and committee members for all their time and efforts this summer.

I also can report that the State Highway Administration (SHA) has just this past week given us preliminary concurrence on our bid selection for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) sidewalk construction project. Once we have finalized contractual agreements, SHA will give official approval and notice to proceed. Work could begin as soon as this month.

More busy days are ahead!

Mayor Kacky