

# e-Bugle

## Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 67

April 2020

No. 4

### Calendar

|              |  |              |   |
|--------------|--|--------------|---|
| Sat, Mar 28  | Farmers Market, 9 am – 1pm, Penn Place   | Tues, Apr 14 | Lunch Bunch, 12:30 pm, Town Hall - <b>TBD</b>   |
| Mon, Mar 30  | FY21 Budget Work Session - <b>TBD</b>  | Fri, Apr 17  | Film Society presents: The Biggest Little Farm, Dinner at 7 pm, Film at 8, Town Hall - <b>TBD</b> |
| Sat, Apr 4   | Farmers Market, 9 am- 1pm, Penn Place<br>GIVES Collection, 9 am – 12 pm, PO Lobby - <b>TBD</b><br><b>LARGE ITEM PICKUP</b> | Sat, Apr 18  | Farmers Market, 9 am – 1pm, Penn Place<br>GIVES Collection 9am – 12 pm - <b>TBD</b>               |
| Thurs, Apr 9 | Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee Meeting, 10 am, Town Office - <b>TBD</b>   | Mon, Apr 20  | Rescheduled Town Council Meeting, See garrettparkmd.gov for call in Info                          |
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### Town Council Meeting Notes

Remember when life was normal? Just a few short weeks ago, the Town Council had its regular March meeting. At that point in time, schools, libraries, restaurants, bars, theaters, and gyms were still open. The meeting itself was a normal in-person gathering at the Town Hall. Nothing about the coronavirus pandemic was on the agenda. The month would conclude, however, with the beginning of weekly emergency virtual meetings to deal with pandemic issues.

Mayor Kacky's opening remarks were short—a plea for more people to sign up for the town's official distribution list for town announcements. If you have not done so, give your e-mail address to the town office, all the more urgent now that there are many pandemic-related statements from the town government. Then both the February minutes and March agenda were approved without changes. There were no resident's presentations. And the sole action item was a very routine shift of the next council meeting to April 20. So far, speedy progress through the agenda.

The first item under new business was what appeared to be a routine appointment of Charlie Kaylor to fill a vacant spot on the Arboretum

Committee. Here is where things began to unravel. Several councilmembers were concerned that the mayor picked someone without advertising for volunteers and presented her choice to the council as a done deal. Her reasoning was that Charlie is very qualified for the position and was willing to volunteer, so the normal process to was not necessary. He was approved unanimously since the council members agreed on his qualifications, but the grumbling about the irregular process took some time.

The next new business item was a presentation by Mary Travaglini of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection concerning the new county policy on permitting only organic pesticides/herbicides. Incorporated municipalities in the county like Garrett Park are not covered by the ordinance unless they opt in. She gave a lengthy and informative presentation about the new rules. If Garrett Park were to opt in, there would be no cost to the town since the county would handle enforcement. The county has an extensive website about the new rules. If you are interested go [here](#). There was no indication at the meeting when discussion and a vote on opting in might take place.

This brought the meeting to the update section, which is usually routine. The mayor began with an

*Continued next page*

update on the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project, most of which was similar to what she had written in her column in the March *Bugle*, so no need to repeat the details here. The controversial issue that erupted on the residents' listserv the week of March 16 was not mentioned at the council meeting. In case you do not subscribe to the listserv, the controversy was over a State Highway Authority suggestion to the town to replace the existing old sidewalk on Oxford between Kenilworth and Montrose, and the mayor's suggestion that in order to do that while remaining within the budget, it would be necessary to shorten the planned extension of the sidewalk on Kenilworth. No doubt this will come up at the April council meeting.

Councilmember Bennett gave an update on the question of whether residents of Garrett Park want town-wide compost collection. She wants to conduct a survey of town residents on this issue, which other councilmembers agreed would be a good step.

The other update issue was stormwater management—and here is where things really went awry. Chuck Berry of the stormwater management task force provided the update on the two problem sites in town affecting properties on Clermont Avenue (in the vicinity of the entrance to Porcupine Woods) and on Rokeby Avenue (in the vicinity of the boundary with Garrett Park Estates). The town's contracted engineers produced recommendations on what to do in each location. Chuck Berry gave a rather detailed review of both plans, which then led to a lengthy discussion, some of it rather technical. What matters for readers is that the task force, in consultation with residents at both problem locations, think parts of the engineers' plans are not necessary (and aspects such as extensive rip-rap to prevent erosion—as opposed to spot rip-rap—would be unsightly). The question, therefore, is whether to proceed with the engineers' plans or the reduced/modified version favored by the task force. Councilmember Wegner made a strong plea that the engineers are the professionals and in order to get real, permanent closure on both of these problem locations it behooves the town to adopt their recommendations. This led Rokeby resident Koneti Rao to make an angry reply about how the town has bungled the Rokeby stormwater problem for at least the past six years, and that it is time to get this job done without engaging in another round of lengthy discussion about which plan is more suitable. The Rao property has been particularly adversely affected by stormwater, so his frustration is understandable. But this whole discussion was in the updates portion of the agenda, so there was no vote on which plan to adopt. Stay tuned for further developments on this issue.

As always, town manager Andrea Fox's monthly report ended the evening. Revenues and expenditures are at expected levels. And the town is about to purchase a new dump truck and snow plow (just in case it ever snows again. . .). So ended the March 9 meeting.

Normally this would be the end of my report, but the stunning changes in our lives over the next two weeks led to an emergency virtual meeting on Friday, April 2020

March 20. Most of the big issues related to the pandemic are out of the hands of the town government. The Center for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, the Maryland state government, and the Montgomery County government are the institutions that govern most big topics such as rules for safe personal behavior or the closings of schools and businesses. However, the pandemic involves issues for the town as well. Quite quickly the town closed the Town Hall, and stopped resident access to the town office in Penn Place. At the emergency meeting, the mayor and councilmembers considered a number of issues, of which three stand out as the most important and most concrete: (1) how to proceed with nominations for the upcoming town election, (2) whether the door to the post office should be modified to open automatically (to prevent touching the door handle), and (3) what to do about posting signs about access to town parks. No need here to get into the details since the results are being implemented on the election and parks while options for the door are being investigated by town manager Andrea Fox. At the end, the mayor and council agreed to continue these virtual meetings, Fridays at 5:00 p.m., for the immediate future. The town government will send out e-mails with the information on how to participate in these meetings by phone or computer.

Stay home, wash your hands if you go out, and stay well.

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 [garrettbugle@gmail.com](mailto:garrettbugle@gmail.com)\*

**Citizens Association Officers**

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**Editor:** Steve Welker ([garrettbugle@gmail.com](mailto:garrettbugle@gmail.com))

**Reporter:** Ed Lincoln (Box 348)

**Ads and Distribution:** Steve Welker ([garrettbugle@gmail.com](mailto:garrettbugle@gmail.com))

**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 [Letters to the Editor](#) will not be printed.

## Town Manager's Notes

**COVID-19** has taken its place front and center, and as long as that's the case, the Town website ([garrettparkmd.gov](http://garrettparkmd.gov)) will have the most recent COVID-19 information as it relates to Garrett Park. The State and County have social media pages and dedicated COVID-19 websites with up-to-date information. For links to these pages, see the Town website. See below for key updates:

- Town Hall is closed, the Town Office is closed to the public, and Town staff may be working reduced schedules.
- Emergency Town Council meetings will be held via teleconference on Fridays at 5:00 PM for the coming weeks. Please see the Town website for call-in information.

- Please exercise caution when visiting our parks in Town. Guidance may change, but as of 3/20/20, Montgomery Parks recommends:
  - Do not gather in groups of more than 10 or get closer than six feet from other people
  - Do not touch any surfaces that are likely to be touched by other people.
  - Refrain from using playground equipment
  - Do not participate in activities involving physical contact or sharing of equipment
  - If you take your kids to a playground, wipe down equipment with disinfectant wipes before and after use.
  - Make sure kids clean their hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- To join the town group supporting our elderly neighbors during this time, please contact Elizabeth Henley at [adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov). Many thanks to all the volunteers that are a part of this effort.

**Town Elections 2020** – The Town election is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2020. Residents will elect a mayor and two council members. Due to COVID-19, the Town has revised the process for this year's nominations. Please check the Town website for updates regarding the Candidate Forum and Election Day. Nominations will happen as follows:

- From March 25, 2020 through April 13, 2020, residents may nominate one another or themselves by sending an email to Town Manager Andrea Fox and Town Assistant Elizabeth Henley at [managerandrea@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:managerandrea@garrettparkmd.gov) and [adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov) OR mailing the nomination to: Town of Garrett Park Town Office, Attn: Town Manager Andrea Fox, PO Box 84, Garrett Park, MD 20896
- Candidates must fill out a financial disclosure form and send to Town Manager Andrea Fox and Town Assistant Elizabeth Henley at [managerandrea@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:managerandrea@garrettparkmd.gov) and [adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov) by April 13, 2020.
- The Town Office will date, print, and keep records of nominations and financial disclosure forms.
- The Town Office will contact (preferably email) nominees and confirm if they'd like to be on the ballot.
- As nominations are confirmed, the nominees will be listed on the Town website.
- Nominations do not need to be seconded. Though this has been a past practice, it's not a requirement of the Charter or Code.
- Self-nominations do not need to be confirmed with 10 signatures on petition as in the past. Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, collecting signatures is highly discouraged.
- Candidates are asked to be mindful of CDC recommendations regarding social distancing.

**2020 Census** – By April 1, 2020, you should receive an invitation by mail with detailed information about how to participate in the Census. Though the Town Office will not be able to help residents in-person as

originally intended, please make every effort to participate in the census. It's important that we're all counted.

**State Tax Form** – Whether you fill out your own state income tax forms, or have someone prepare them for you, please be sure that “Garrett Park” is written in the box labeled “City, Town or Taxing Area.” This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues distributed by the state.

**Regular Reminders:**

**Communication** – 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](http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal) New to town? Contact the Town Office at 301-933-7488 or stop by the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at Penn Place. We'll get you acquainted with what you need to know about living in Garrett Park.

**Permits** – A Garrett Park building permit is required when you want to build a new structure including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is *in addition to* the required Montgomery County permit. Complete your Garrett Park permit application and submit along with your plat and drawings to the Town Office *before* requesting a County permit. Permit applications and payment can be completed online at [www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits](http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits)

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

Andrea Fox, Town Manager

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~ Garrett Park resident ~

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**Arboretum Committee**

The Arboretum Committee is pleased to announce its updated Committee page on the Town's [website](#). The page has been refreshed and new information added. Did you know that you can find information about individual trees on the interactive map of the Garrett Park Tree Inventory? Go [here](#), scroll in to the location that interests you (adjacent to your home, in the Memorial Grove, or elsewhere in town) and click on the tree number to find its name. Also new to the Arboretum page is an Information for Homeowners



[page](#) with FAQs and other background material on trees in Garrett Park. Do you have questions not answered on the site? Let us know; the page can be dynamic, reflecting the interests of residents.

## From the Archives

Like many of you, I have been spending more time at home lately (and, perhaps, eating too much junk food!). But I've been far from bored. In fact, I've been using this time to update the Archives' online content.

First, if you haven't had a chance, check out the Archives' online exhibition about the history of baseball in Garrett Park. It covers baseball in the town from the early 1900s through the 1950s. You can access the exhibition [here](#). At some point, I'll also update the display case in Penn Place, so you'll have two viewing options. (As an aside, I used Google Sites, a no-cost and low-tech tool, to create this exhibition. I mention this because if you're using this time to sort old family papers and photographs, Google Sites might be a great way to share items with your family.)

In addition to the exhibition, I've also been adding to the Archives' website, which you can access from the Archives Committee page of the Town's website. Although this is a work in progress, you can see brief descriptions of our collections, as well as recently added images.

Lastly, I'm working to ensure we preserve a record of current events surrounding COVID-19. When I read Town Council Meeting Minutes from the 1890s and early 1900s, I see references to typhoid and diphtheria outbreaks, but that's the extent of what we have. We are living through something historic right now, and I would like future users of the Archives to understand what it was like. I invite you to submit your experiences and thoughts to the Archives in formats of your choosing so that we can preserve this history. Please email me at [Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov](mailto:Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov) for more information (or any other questions you may have).

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## G.I.V.E.S.

Busy schedules and travel restrictions due to Covid-19 prevented us from visiting Thrive DC for this Bugle issue as originally planned, but we hope to get there in time for the next issue. In the meantime, please visit [www.stepsingstonesshelter.org](http://www.stepsingstonesshelter.org) to see their Urgent Needs List and learn about other volunteer opportunities. Also, unfortunately our April 4th G.I.V.E.S. collection at the post office has been cancelled in order to comply with social distancing etiquette to help combat Covid-19. We will evaluate whether to proceed with the April 18th collection as we get closer. In lieu of donating in person, please consider using the G.I.V.E.S. can on the table in the post office when you stop by to pick up your mail. Or you can send donations to G.I.V.E.S. at P.O. Box 331, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Your generosity is always appreciated, but especially now during these most difficult times.

In gratitude,  
 Molly Shuck & Natalie Grande  
[garrettparkgives@gmail.com](mailto:garrettparkgives@gmail.com)



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## Town Resident Contributions

### Black Market Bistro Lovers

I spoke with the manager of Black Market Bistro Friday evening when I put in a pizza order. He said that they are trying to stay open as long as they can with a small kitchen crew for take out-orders only. The menu may change each day, and it is printed on the Black Market website. When I asked how customers could help their servers who are no longer able to work, he said that they are accepting cash donations to tip their kitchen staff who are still working and that they are providing meals to their

servers. If Garrett Park folks want to help, they can put a donation in an envelope and leave it with the manager when they pick up take-out or just drop off a donation between noon and 7:00 p.m. When I stopped on Friday evening, the doors to the dining porch were open, so it's a quick pick up for food orders and leaving a cash donation.

Karen Thiel, Argyle Avenue

### **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, send an email to [Garrettparkneighbors+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:Garrettparkneighbors+subscribe@groups.io). Please include your name and address.

Dawn Harris

### **Baby boy for Welker Family on Weymouth**

Suzie and Steve Welker are pleased to announce the birth of their second child. Heath Frederick Welker was born in the wee hours of March 25 at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring. The family was happy to return back home the next day and both Heath and Suzie are doing absolutely great. His older sister, Eliza, is taking things in stride.



Photo of Eliza, Heath and Grampy Welker

### **Happy News for the Abrams Family on Weymouth Street!**

Daniel Abrams married Erica Delaney on New Years Eve, 2019 at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel in West Harrison, NY. The Abrams family hosted a rehearsal dinner in Rye, New York and then partied into the New Year with great joy. The couple works and resides on the Upper East Side in Manhattan. They have plans to honeymoon in Spain in late May.



Erica Delaney graduated from Pace University in Manhattan in 2010 with a BS in Psychology and Human Relations. She is now working as a Senior Underwriter for the global insurance company Axa XL, specializing in Environmental pollution with expertise in site pollution, providing coverage for commercial companies. Dan Abrams grew up in Garrett Park and graduated Walter Johnson HS in 2006. He received a dual degree in Political Science and Psychology from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, 2010. He is currently head of the relationship management team of North and South America at MergerMarket, a business intelligence media company providing data in the financial market world.



Kay and Ira Abrams of Garrett Park, and Robin and Bob Schwartz of Huntington Woods, Michigan announce the upcoming wedding of their children, Leah Rose Abrams and Andrew Joseph Schwartz. Leah received a bachelor's degree from Emory University and attended the University of Michigan to earn a Master of Public Health in epidemiology. She is currently a doctoral candidate in health policy and will start as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies in the fall.

Andrew attended the University of Michigan, earning a bachelor's, master's, and ultimately a doctorate degree in biomedical science. Andrew is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Leah and Andrew hope to be wed on Labor Day weekend, September 6th, 2020, before friends and family at The Accelerator Space in Baltimore, Maryland.



# Letter from the Mayor

Dear Residents,

These are trying times. The COVID-19 pandemic is testing our patience, our courage, and our beliefs. We are being asked continually to adjust our habits, routines, and behaviors in order to keep ourselves and others safe. I realize how difficult this time is for all of us. Loss of income. Struggling businesses. No personal protective equipment (PPE). The list goes on. And we know what this list looks like. It's scary. It's sad. And it's stressful. But we're a tough, caring and creative community and we'll get through this.

I've been heartened to see acts of kindness and support throughout our Town. Volunteers are checking on our senior residents and those in self-isolation. Others have volunteered to sew masks, make hand sanitizer, and give away hand towels. And just the other day, many of us answered the call to create a "bear hunt" for the children in Town. What a great idea and what a great community response!

I ask that we all continue to follow the national, state and county directives about social distancing, avoiding crowds and contact sports. We're now in a state of emergency with an executive order by Governor Hogan to stay at home. While we don't know how long this will last, it is critically important we follow this order. Lives are at stake. Minimizing contact minimizes the chance of infection. Minimizing the chance of infection helps "flatten the curve," slowing the spread of the virus. By slowing the spread, we're giving more time for health care workers to better manage and provide patient care and for manufacturers to produce and distribute the much-needed PPE. If we all do our part, avoid contact and keep 6-feet apart, we can beat this virus. It'll take time. It'll take all of us.

You may be wondering about the status of the SRTS sidewalk construction project during this state of emergency. Patriot, the prime contractor, assures me they are trying to schedule work in such a way as to minimize inconveniences to residents. This means allowing residents access to their driveways and front sidewalks for as long as possible and taking precautionary measures to prevent tripping and other hazards. It remains to be seen how COVID-19 may affect the overall SRTS progress. We are taking this one day at a time. I expect to hear this week from the State Highway Administration if construction projects such as ours will be able to continue or will need to shut down.

Stay safe. Be well. And keep the distance.

-Mayor Kacky

## More March Pictures of Sidewalk Progress on Oxford St.



Photos taken by Steve Welker on 3/12/20 (above) and 3/30/20 (prior page).