

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 67 June 2020 No. 6

Calendar

Tues Jun 2	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, 7 pm	Wed Jun 17	Arboretum Committee Meeting via Teleconference, 7 pm
Sat Jun 6	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place; GIVES Collection, 9 – 12 pm Penn Place Disinfection PO Lobby Closed, 2 – 3 pm	Sat Jun 20	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place; GIVES Collection, 9 – 12 pm Penn Place Disinfection PO Lobby Closed, 2 – 3 pm
Mon Jun 8	Town Council Meeting via Teleconference, 7:30 pm	Sat Jun 27	LARGE ITEM PICKUP Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place Penn Place Disinfection PO Lobby Closed, 2 – 3 pm
Tues Jun 9	Citizens Association Meeting via Teleconference, 7:30 pm. Subject: 4 th of July Planning	Fri Jul 3	Town Office Closed – Independence Day Holiday
Sat Jun 13	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1 pm, Penn Place Penn Place Disinfection PO Lobby Closed, 2 – 3 pm	Sat Jul 4	Happy Independence Day!

Town Council Meeting Notes

May was yet another month of multiple town council meetings. Readers will recall that April had finished with a special meeting to discuss the proposed fiscal 2021 budget (that starts July 1). At the end of that lengthy meeting, councilmembers did not feel ready to vote on the revised draft, so an additional meeting was added on May 1 to look at the totality of changes and to vote to introduce the budget. With the budget formally introduced, the regular council meeting on May 18 quickly approved it.

What is the big picture? The budget anticipates a 12 percent decline in town receipts (e.g. taxes and transfers from the state and county). Receipts also assumes a decline in rental revenue, since a tenant in Penn Place has moved out and it is uncertain when a replacement will be found. In addition, the budget anticipates a decline in the annual carryover from the previous year, so that total financial resources for the year are forecasted to go down 26 percent. At this point, of course, no one knows whether the revenue situation will be better or worse than this.

On the expenditure side, the budget is essentially flat. Huh? How does a major decline in revenue enable little change in expenditures? The budget assumes that the coming fiscal year will end with a

zero surplus to be carried over to the following year. In recent years, the town has had a year-end surplus of \$200,000 or more. So, by budgeting for no carry-over to fiscal 2022, the expenditure side of the budget can remain flat. But in these extraordinary times, only time will tell if these expectations prove correct. If revenues decline more than forecast, expenditures will have to be adjusted down.

Now, on to the rest of the regular May meeting. Once again, the meeting was marred by problems with the Webex teleconferencing software, although the situation improved after the first half hour or so. The starting point for the evening was to swear-in the two just-elected councilmembers: Gerilee Bennett (second term) and Mario Grande (first term). Mayor Kacky, also starting a second term, had previously been sworn in by the County Clerk. Welcome, Mario! He replaces Hans Wegner who chose not to run for another term. Your reporter would like to thank Hans for his long 17 years of service as a councilmember. Even those who have disagreed with him on policy issues in the past should concur that he always acted with integrity, made decisions based on facts and careful analysis, and had a strong sense of what was best for all of Garrett Park. Thank you, Hans, for your incredible dedication to the town.

Having sworn-in the newly elected members, the council moved on to action items. The budget was

Continued next page

quickly passed, as was an ordinance to adopt the new County rules on pesticides (and to make a few tweaks in out-of-date wording in the list of County codes that Garrett Park has opted into). With the passage of this ordinance, be aware that you, or your lawn maintenance provider, are now restricted on what kinds of pesticides or herbicides can be applied to grass and plants on your property. I have posted it before, but here it is again, the county's [website](#) explaining all of this. This is a welcome positive change for our local environment. After a bit of discussion, the council also decided to take the usual summer break, so there will be no council meeting in August. But they noted that should pandemic circumstances change in a way that requires town government action, they could always hold a special meeting that month.

So far, so good. The next section of the meeting was "Updates," of which the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) sidewalk project was the only item. Oh boy! This is where the meeting really heated up. As noted in earlier reports on council meetings, councilmembers have been concerned about on-the-spot changes made by the Mayor as work on the sidewalk has proceeded. We all know that in the best of circumstances contractors confront situations not fully anticipated in the plans, so that some changes along the way are pretty standard. But in this case, councilmembers voiced consternation that some of the changes undo carefully crafted and thoroughly vetted plans developed over the past six years. In advance of the May 18 meeting, councilmember Bennett had provided Mayor Kacky several days in advance with a list of ten questions about status or resolution of some issues on Oxford and asking about change requests/proposals on Clermont and Kenilworth. For example, the list asked Kacky to explain the nature of the problem of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that arose near the intersection of Oxford and Shelley Court (due to an unexpectedly steep slope). This list guided the ensuing discussion.

During this discussion, the council members and two residents in attendance were calm, clear, sensible, and logical with their questions and suggestions, but the mayor pushed back on many of them. If you would like to better grasp the situation, listen to the final 40-45 minutes of the meeting on the posted recording. Upshot? There was no firm conclusion or any votes resulting from this discussion, but the mayor seemed to remain adamant that her changes on the sidewalk project will stand.

The meeting concluded with the town manager's report. Expenditures and revenues are all at expected levels (and in her oral remarks, town manager Andrea Fox indicated that revenues are actually slightly higher than anticipated while expenditures a bit below expectations). The virtual meeting was then adjourned, and your reporter stumbled off to get a badly needed stiff drink.

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*

Citizens Association Officers

Alysia Bone, President ~ Thomas DiChiara, Vice-President ~ Therese Keating, Treasurer ~ Steve Welker, Secretary

Editor: Steve Welker (garrettbugle@gmail.com)

Reporter: Ed Lincoln (Box 348)

Ads and Distribution: Steve Welker (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

Large Item Pickup will be Saturday, June 27. Place items curbside no later than Friday evening.

2020 Census results will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. Please make every effort to participate. For instructions to participate online, by phone, and by mail, visit <https://2020census.gov/ways-to-respond>. If you would like assistance with the online form, call Joanne Schmader at 301-946-5396, Wednesdays between 1 and 4pm, have your Census form handy.

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.

COVID-19 – See the Town website for COVID-19 information; current updates are on the homepage and all updates and links to resources are under the Government tab, Coronavirus News and Information page. Regarding the Town's timeline for reopening, we are largely following the lead of the expert County Emergency Management and Public Health staff. Thanks for your patience as we continue to adjust to a new normal.

Town Election 2020 – Thanks to all who participated in this year's vote-by-mail Town election. Ballots were cast by 44% of eligible Garrett Park residents; Mayor Kacky was elected uncontested with 278 votes. Councilmembers Bennett and Grande were elected with 255 and 275 votes, respectively. Many thanks to Town Assistant Elizabeth Henley and the election judges for their time and flexibility throughout the process.

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. New to town? Contact the Town Office at 301-933-7488 or

email adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov. 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.

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

Please join us on **Tuesday, June 9 at 7:30 pm** for a virtual Citizens Association meeting to discuss this year's Fourth of July event planning. As you may be aware, the Citizens Association assumes primary responsibility for the Town's 4th of July parade and barbecue. Due to our own concerns about reducing the spread of COVID-19 as well as potential constraints in place by order of the State of Maryland and/or Montgomery County, we are facing the sad reality that we will likely have to substantially curtail any public celebrations if not completely cancel our Fourth of July events. As these are our biggest events of the year, we believe it necessary to open this discussion up to all members of the CA in order to both hear your concerns as well as solicit your ideas.

We anticipate accomplishing three things during this meeting:

1. Discuss the feasibility of a parade and/or barbecue in light of the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19 restrictions and health concerns.
2. Discuss ideas for contingent 4th of July events in the event the parade and/or barbecue are cancelled.
3. Identify volunteers for any planned events.

We anticipate the call taking no more than 1 hour, and we would love to have as many of you there as possible. We will try to adhere to the format we took with the Town Council Candidates' Forum (i.e. attendees will be muted until called upon, questions submitted ahead of time) to ensure this meeting goes as smoothly as possible. Information on how to access the meeting (most likely WebEx) will be emailed ahead of time.

Thank you, and stay safe.

G.I.V.E.S.

Greetings from G.I.V.E.S (Garrett Park Inter-community Volunteer Experiment in Sharing)!

Good news! With the recently eased Covid-19 restrictions, our in-person outdoor collections will resume in June (weather permitting.) Please stop by our table on Saturday, June 6th at the Post Office and on Saturday, June 20th at the Farmers Market.

Thank you to Julie & Aaron Brand and family for the very generous donation in honor of Carolyn Shawaker's neighborly generosity. What a wonderful place we live in!!

If you miss our in-person collections this month, 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. And while you're there, take a look on the bulletin board to see the heartfelt thank you note from Stepping Stones for the \$2,000 check we sent them in April. You can also send donations to G.I.V.E.S. at P.O. Box 331, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

With appreciation,

Molly Shuck & Natalie Grande
garrettparkgives@gmail.com

**9am-9pm
Mon-Sat
9am-7pm
Sunday**
301-493-6217
www.grosvenormarket.com

Grosvenor Metro
Rockville Pike
10401
Market
Grosvenor Place

Strathmore
Tuckerman

Find us on Facebook

From the Archives

Interested in learning more about Garrett Park's early history? Check out some new additions about St. James Chapel (aka Town Hall) on the Archives website. I recently used an overhead scanner to digitize two over-sized ledgers from the late 1890s/early 1900s. The first ledger contains over 160 pages of meeting minutes, letters, proposals, and other information dating back to 1896 related to the planning, construction, and management of the chapel. The second ledger, about 60 pages, is the treasurer's book and includes entries about funding the chapel. Funding came from donations and monthly (or weekly) subscriptions by town residents.

The ledgers are fascinating to explore on many levels, for example learning the history of the chapel, identifying different town residents who were involved, reading language used in old agreements

and contracts, and seeing how much things cost 120 years ago. Not only are the ledgers a great source if you're interested in Garrett Park history, but they might also be a fun resource for all you parents who are teaching your children at home right now. You can use them to teach your children about local history, what a primary source is, reading cursive, and more. And, when the Town Archives open back up, feel free to come by to see the actual ledgers up close!

While it's not possible to put everything in the Town Archives on our website, I am working to add new content to highlight our great collections. Let me know if you have any questions or comments - Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov. (You can access the site through the Archives Committee page on the Town's website or at <https://garrettparkarchives.omeka.net/>)

Historic Preservation Committee

Grab a brochure the next time you visit the Post Office and take a *Self-Guided Walking Tour of Garrett Park's Historic Homes*. Stroll through the town, bring the kids and learn some history!

The [GPHPC](#) is available as a resource for homeowners of houses of any era, whether Victorian, Garrett Park's distinctive Chevy Houses, or mid-century modern, who are contemplating changes and would like guidance. Our meetings are open to the public and usually occur once a month.

Services for Seniors

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathing • Lifting • Personal Care & Hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dressing • Transferring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimum • All caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistants • The owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needs • All caregivers are fluent in English • Personal choice in selection of every caregiver • Licensed, Bonded, Insured • 24 Hours Service – 7 Days a Week
---	--	---

Services now available in Northern Virginia
"The quality of care you would want for your parents"

MD • Call 301-949-0060 VA • Call 703-956-3564
www.eldercaring2.com www.eldercaringofnova.com
Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Arboretum Committee

Garrett Park's Trees

Throughout this spring, one of the saving graces of "safe at home" has been that home is Garrett Park. Amidst the terrible news, the trees were leafing out and blooming for us, as many have done for generations. One repercussion of limitations imposed by the pandemic is that Garrett Park was not able to undertake its usual spring tree planting. But as a symbol of hope for future, the Garrett Park Arboretum Committee made special arrangements for the planting of two sugar maples on Waverly Avenue: 'Commemoration' on the east side of Waverly near Montrose, adjacent to the tennis courts, and 'Legacy' directly across. These trees are

June 2020

dedicated to all who are working in service to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, including health care workers, researchers, first responders and others engaged in the fight against this disease. As the trees grow, their contributions will be remembered far into the future. The trees also recognize those who have borne bereavements at this sad time.

Summer Jobs List

Ally Holden (18) – Pet-Sitting and Plant Watering
301-873-1646

Matt Holden (18) – Lawn Mowing
301-466-7135

Call Todd today, your local neighborhood realtor!

cell: 301-455-5440
office: 240-497-1700
ToddHarrisHomes.com

~ Garrett Park resident ~

LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE
CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
REALTOR CERTIFIED
EcoBroker CERTIFIED

Town Resident Contributions

Garret Park Adopts Montgomery County Pesticide Law

Tis the season for lawncare and gardening in verdant Garrett Park! This Summer, please pay special attention to the products you or your lawncare service provider are using. At its May 18 meeting, the Garrett Park Town Council voted unanimously to opt in to the Montgomery County Pesticide Law which restricts the use of certain pesticides on lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas, and childcare facilities. The law is designed to protect the health of residents and to minimize the potential pesticide hazard to people and pets, our own tree canopy in Garrett Park, and the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed. Most synthetic pesticides are not allowed to treat pests in lawns in Montgomery County since 2019 and in Garrett Park beginning June 17. Only organic or minimum-risk pesticides are allowed for use on lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas, and childcare facilities. Exemptions apply for limited applications to protect against biting/stinging insects and invasive and noxious weeds.

The County Department of Environmental Protection's [website](#) explains how the law applies, includes images of product labeling and frequently asked questions to help residents understand how to

comply. The website has extensive information about preventing weeds and pests without harmful chemicals. If you have any questions about the law, the products that are allowed for use on lawns and mulched areas in Garrett Park, and/or the exemptions, you may [email](#) the County. I'm also happy to help answer questions about Garrett Park's ordinance. You can reach me [here](#). Thank you for doing your part to make Garrett Park a healthier and greener community.

Gerilee Bennett, Councilmember

Garrett Park Massage

Dennis Collins, L.M.T.

Certified since 1989

SWEDISH • DEEP TISSUE • MYOFASCIAL RELEASE

301-946-7318

11400 Rokeby Avenue, Garrett Park, MD

Garrett Park's Historic Landscape

We all have quite a bit more time at home these days, due to COVID 19. When out walking or bicycling the leafy streets of Garrett Park with some of that extra recreational time with family, notice how conducive the town's layout is to such activities. That's not by accident.

The streets are laid out like carriageways through a park-like landscape. The layout of the rail accessed suburb of Garrett Park was platted out in 1887 by Engineer John L Freeman with concepts by William Saunders, a Horticulturist and 'Landscape Gardener'. At the time Garrett Park was envisioned and developed by Henry Copp, who incorporated the Metropolitan Investment and Building Company of Montgomery County in 1886, Saunders was local, serving as the Superintendent of Grounds at USDA. Previous work by Saunders followed the path of development in and around early American cities that evolved into the garden suburb movement in the latter half the 19th century, a trend which included Garrett Park as well as Kensington just down the road. In the 1830s, the rural or garden cemetery movement started, shifting cemeteries a few or many miles outside of cities, into intricately designed landscapes that welcomed visitors for recreation activities of strolling, carriages, and picnicking. In the 1860s, Saunders designed the Soldier's National Cemetery at Gettysburg, as well as Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL, where Lincoln's Tomb is located. By mid-century, the rural cemetery movement was expanding, and then branched into the early stages of an urban parks movement which shared many of the same romantic aesthetics, starting with Central Park in New York. Saunders designed carriageways for Fairmount Park in Philadelphia in that era.

Around that time, in the 1850s and 60s, the earliest master planned suburban towns were beginning to emerge using similar concepts of

winding carriageways, objects set into created landscapes, and park spaces. Stream beds and other natural elements were often reserved as park space in garden suburb plans. Garrett Park had such parks planned at multiple areas, many of which still exist as parks, but some were built over like the north tip of town at the ends of Rokeby and Kenilworth. Such suburbs were planned to have advantages of space, security and sanitation over cities of the time. As most Garrett Parkers know, the Town was incorporated in 1898 to settle a dispute over sanitation regarding indoor plumbing.

The town's development around the peak of the garden suburb movement, and its intact 1887 street layout, was a foundation upon which Garrett Park successfully applied to be listed as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places as of 1975. It's ironic to have more time than usual to enjoy the historic town plan these days, considering Garrett Park's 19th century place in the history of planning, when alternatives to cities struggling at times with diseases developed into rural cemeteries, large urban parks and then garden suburbs as places to get out for strolls in fresh air. Enjoy your stroll, just watch out for delivery vehicles if you choose to squint your eyes and pretend it's the 19th century for a bit!

Stephen Paczkowski



Photo: Waverly /Kenilworth fork looking west in the 19th century. (photo from Garrett Park Archives)

Letter to the Editor

However unspeakably terrible the Coronavirus pandemic is, it has also brought with it some definite advantages. With a dramatic drop in driving, it has substantially reduced air pollution and has brought a welcomed lowering of the traffic noise level, especially during rush hour. My wife Carol and I can now sit on our deck on Montrose about 200 feet from Strathmore in the afternoon without the almost deafening constant roar of cars, trucks and buses. And the bird songs sound even more pleasant.

The air is definitely cleaner. We can smell the fresh fragrances of nature without the intrusion of vehicle fumes. The colors of the trees, shrubs and flowers are more vibrant. And, as a result, as we take our daily walk around town, we can appreciate the enormous beauty of the town much more.

Perhaps even more pleasant is the number of neighbors out walking the town and enjoying its

unique beauty. As we pass, they often smile, wave and say hello, gestures that were often missed when everybody was consumed with work and other pursuits. Many of the walkers are from Garrett Park Estates, giving the walking scene a broader community atmosphere. And, even though we often have to shout to bridge the social distancing requirement, we find it easier to keep up with friends and neighbors. If you do walk, pick up a copy of the Garrett Park walking tour brochures in the Penn Place lobby for a fascinating introduction to town history and architecture.

As we pick up our mail every day, we give thanks to the Post Office staff, part of the army of essential worker heroes that keep us going. As you go to the Post Office, it would be nice to recognize them and at least say "hello" (through your mask).

The pandemic reminds us that the town owes its creation, ironically, to other epidemics of more than a century ago. In the second half of the 19th century, a series of typhoid epidemics ravaged several areas in the country, with one outbreak killing 14,000 people in Philadelphia, and in 1895 at least one case in town was reported by *The Park*, the first Garrett Park newspaper. At the time, the park was still a suburban subdivision. In 1897, a woman named Gracie Sprigg and her husband bought a Victorian house at 4710 Waverly, and proceeded to install a toilet and cesspool. Some years earlier, scientists discovered that typhoid was caused by drinking water contaminated by sewage. Since Garrett Park depended on ground water (serviceable privies were above-ground), townfolk were understandably upset. The way they stopped her was to get the state legislature to incorporate the development as a town, which immediately passed its first substantive ordinance outlawing such indoor plumbing. The Spriggs sued but lost and moved to Virginia.

The ordinance was in force until the mid-teens, when sewer pipes were introduced, obviating the need for cesspools. Several years later, WSSC was created and the town was required to hook up. That requirement remains in force.

Meanwhile, town archivist Claire McDonald (archives@garrettparkmd.gov) is looking for material to document the pandemic experience in town. Please give her a hand and submit your own stories and mementoes. And, stay well.

Charlie Snyder

Enjoying the Flow of Life

I am learning a new lifestyle. Of turning any event, even painfully negative ones, into some source of joy. And of sharing this skill with anyone open to the idea. It has proven to be a wonderful mechanism for me.

I recently lost someone very close to my heart in an unexpected manner. The shock of it was a little numbing. And yet, I was surprised that as I decided to give into the natural flow of grief and loss, it eventually turned into an empowering peace that set base deep in my heart!

My past focus used to be on how things were going wrong for me in all directions. My mind was constantly involved and looking only at this element of pain and disappointment. Then one day, I decided to list all the ways I had been blessed. After pages and pages of items on my new gratitude list, I realized that unknown to me, good things were happening to me all the time. I just did not realize the tremendous miracles around me.

It so happens that this joy and gratitude thingee is a funny one! The more you focus on it, the more you get it showered on you. I started noticing this trend. I began to see the people being put in my sphere, the doors being opened, and the experiences of wealth beyond materialism being offered to me. And to those around me.

And now, there is no reason NOT to climb my way back to happiness and wonder, even if I think I am drowning in despair. There is always an art piece that is waiting to be created, my child's laughing banter, a walk-in-nature, a beautiful medley of songs, a new friend to make or something else that pulls me away from darkness. It all begins with a choice. To drop the "rights" and "wrongs" and other ego issues, to look at everything with the eyes of a kid, and to simply let go of all... in the flow.

Sangeeta Kaul

Local Computer Repair

FREE pick-up and return

Fast! Professional computer repairs, hardware upgrades, in-home tutorials, and much more.

Virus removal, **memory** upgrades, restore **speed**, computer to **smartphone** assistance, **printer** help, **custom** computer builds for gaming or other needs. Need help with **Zoom**? Can't start your computer? **Blue screen** at startup? Computer **slow**? Programs, devices or features **not working**? Want to improve **video** and **audio quality** for video calls? Need **wireless** capabilities? Call or email to arrive at a solution.

David Altar

301-602-2713

David.altar1@gmail.com

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Residents,

Two months ago, in my April letter I started with the words, “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.”

Now, two months later, I can say these are extraordinary times. Extraordinary in that throughout these trying times, we continually witness the daily resilience and kindness of our residents as we act in unison to support one another. Extraordinary in that no matter how despondent we may feel, we can still feel empathy towards one another and come together to mourn the loved ones lost to COVID-19. Extraordinary in that as stressed as we may be, we continue to remain grateful and show appreciation to those families who have been working day and night to keep us all safe during this pandemic.

Two and one-half months since our Governor initiated the COVID-19 restrictions, we are now seeing some of these restrictions being eased for businesses. But the social and behavioral practices remain. I appeal to all of you to continue maintaining the personal distancing of at least six feet, avoiding crowds of ten or more, and wearing face masks—not so much as to protect yourself but to protect those around you. Our Town, our residents benefit when we are all practicing these behaviors. The data supports this. Compared to other small towns across Maryland, Garrett Park is one of the few that continues to stay below the threshold for reported infections. Now is not the time for any of us in Town to ease up, give up, or disregard these practices.

Please continue to remain vigilant and to adapt to these new norms. They will continue to be needed for some time until there are therapeutic treatments and a vaccine to thwart the virus. Together we can beat this virus. Not alone, but together. And we will. Because we have shown ourselves to be extraordinary in extraordinarily trying times.

Stay safe. Be well. And remember-- *“Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.”*

-Mayor Kacky