

councilmember voiced disagreement with his recommendation.

- Phone directory. Mayor Kacky raised the possibility of putting out a new printed phone directory (the last one was in 2015). The town government could partially pay for the project, but it would need several volunteers to do the actual work (collecting the information, selling advertisements to help defray the cost, and overseeing publication and distribution). The subsequent discussion mostly concerned whether we need a printed directory in the 21st century. Steve Welker of the Citizens Association said he would look into whether the Citizens Association would be interested working on the project.

Next, the meeting moved on to the monthly updates, of which there were many.

- Sidewalks. Mayor Kacky noted that some of the work by contractors on fixing items on the “punch list” was inadequate and needed to be redone. Otherwise, the project continues to approach its final completion.
- Train Horns. Councilmember Simons noted that there will be a follow-up discussion of the issue at the March 24 Citizens Association meeting, and after that a survey of residents’ opinions.
- Arboretum Committee. Councilmember Bennet said that selecting a contractor to do work in Porcupine Woods is moving forward.
- Strathmore Avenue Redevelopment (of the St. Angela Hall/Academy of the Holy Cross property). Councilmember Bennett attended a meeting held by the developer, at which they provided an overview of their plans. This update led to some further discussion with several councilmembers noting that outright opposition to the project would not work because the developer seems to be hitting all the buttons the county likes, such as assisted living units, “missing middle” housing (a fancy technical name for townhouses), etc. The county will probably hold hearings on rezoning for this project in the fall of this year, with the developer having its final plans ready sometime in 2022. Thus, there is time to submit concerns and ideas about traffic management to the developer and the county government as this process moves forward.
- Stormwater. Councilmember Schulp indicated that the topographical survey of the area at the end of Rokeby, so that bidding contractors will know exactly what they are getting into, is moving along.
- Town Hall Renovation. Councilmember Paczkowski announced the public meeting on March 18 to discuss renovation ideas.
- Historic Preservation. Councilmember Paczkowski noted that Montgomery County government held a useful open house on historic preservation tax credits, the video of which you can find here:

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/historic/tax-credit-program/>

- Archives. Council member Grande indicated that archivist Claire McDonald is working on old town records, deciding what to keep and getting them indexed. She will also work on digitizing records pertaining to the Garret Park Players (a town group that put on plays in the 1950s).

Whew! This meeting had a lot to cover. Finally came the monthly Town Manager’s report. Town revenues and expenditures continue to be within expected levels. In addition, the audited financial figures for the 2020 fiscal year (the year ending June 30, 2020) are about ready from the auditor and will be posted on the town website.

As always, the meeting ended with the Town Manager’s report. And, as usual, revenues and expenditures are running at expected levels. Yay!

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*

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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.

How can residents keep informed about Town news and events?

The best way to know about **Town** services, government, committees and meetings is to sign up for e- notifications from www.garrettparkmd.gov. To do so, register for a website user account at: <https://www.garrettparkmd.gov/Sys/sso/Register>, and please provide your street address.

After your account is active, and you are signed in, go to: <https://www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal/sign-up-for-email-notifications>. Select which News/Announcements, and Calendar notifications to receive by clicking on the desired items, then scroll down to click “Submit”.

For more informal town resident discussions, register for the Garrett Park Town Forum, by emailing: adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov. Provide your street address and request to be added to the Forum. The Forum is a Google Group, and you can adjust your settings to determine how you want the email managed.

Town Manager’s Notes

Town Elections 2021 – In this year’s Town election, voters were to select three candidates for Council. The final, confirmed candidates for this

year's Town election are Danuta (Dona) Dobosz, Stephen Paczkowski, and Phil Schulp. Since the only confirmed candidates for nominated office are the three candidates for Council, the election shall be deemed uncontested and cancelled, consistent with the [Town Election Plan - 2021](#). The candidates shall be considered elected as of May 3, 2021 and shall take office at the next Council meeting after the election.

Town budget – The FY22 budget will be introduced at the April Town Council Meeting and considered for adoption at the May Town Council Meeting

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 – The resident’s portal provides the Town Office with one more way to reach you. Register at www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal New to town? Contact adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov to get 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 at www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits

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

Andrea Fox, Town Manager

Citizen Association Notes

CA Meeting March 24

Thank you to those who attended the Zoom meeting concerning nominations for Town Council and a special presentation from Allison Fultz addressing policy fixes concerning train horns. The meeting provided an opportunity for Garrett Park residents to hear an overview of the report commissioned by the Town Council regarding the train horn soundings along at-grade crossings on CSX’s Brunswick Line. This meeting was well attended, but if you missed it, a recording will be posted soon on the Garrett Park Youtube page. [See the presentation from the January 2021 Council meeting, and a summary of the report.](#)

Dues and 2021 Events:

We’re now collecting CA dues for 2021: \$25 per family or \$15 for an individual. Dues support the printing costs of the Bugle and are also typically used to hold CA events such as the Town Dinner, wine tastings, 4th of July activities, and Spooky Woods. Though COVID-19 restrictions may prevent us from hosting some of these traditional events this year, we plan to organize other virtual activities (e.g., seminars and workshops) and other pandemic-friendly events. Please Venmo your dues to @GarrettPark-CitizensAssociatio, send cash or a check to PO Box 456, or email theresekeating@aol.com to make other arrangements.

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David Altar
301-602-2713
David.altar1@gmail.com

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In early July 1897, the chapel hosted its first service. Harry Shontz, who became the town’s first Clerk/Treasurer a year later, reportedly gave a “fine speech, in which he welcomed all to the new church irrespective of sect or creed, and fully convinced all that it was truly a union chapel, where all would gather as their inclinations led.” (*Montgomery Press*, 7/9/1897).

Claire McDonald, MLIS
Town Archivist
Garrett Park, MD

Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov
<https://garrettparkarchives.omeka.net/>

From the Town Archives



Given the recent meeting about Town Hall, I wanted to share the history of the building. As you know, it was originally a chapel, and the Town Archives contains many of its early records.

According to original meeting minutes, on October 13, 1896, several Garrett Park residents met at Palemon Dorsett’s home “to consider the practicability and advisability of purchasing a lot and building a Chapel or Sunday School Room...” The meeting resulted in a chapel committee chaired by Beverly Galloway.

Purchasing land was the committee’s first task. By November 10, members Messrs. Dorsett, Galloway, Talcott, and Browne jointly purchased Lot 4, Section 50 for \$75.00. They also drew plans for a building measuring 24.0” x 40.0” with an estimated cost of \$700. From correspondence, it appears the original drawing did not include the tower. Thomas Groomes, the architect and builder who was ultimately awarded the contract, apparently included the tower in his drawings. His winning bid was \$1,100.85 plus an additional \$100 for the tower.

The chapel was built without a “privvy” (bathroom). In 1899, Town Health Officer, William Soleau, urged the Chapel Committee to add one, stating: “*You will surely agree with me that morality and refinement lean toward this suggestion. It is now observed that children and adults too, have been forced to use the rear of the Chapel in order to obtain relief for the demands of nature.*” An outside privvy was later added.

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Obituaries



John Curtis “Jack” Abernethy (Age 91) of Kensington, MD (by way of Garrett Park, MD) passed away on Monday, March 15, 2021. Beloved husband to Patricia Regina Abernethy (deceased); devoted father of Michelle (d.), Christine, John, James (d.), Joseph, Regina,

Mary Patricia and Michael. Caring grandfather of Gabriel, Christine, Sjaak, Annamarieke, Christopher John, Sarah, Andrew, Mathieu, Margaret, William, Aaron, Owen, Joseph, Alexandra, Evan, Natalie and Brayan. Great grandfather to 12 children. He was predeceased by his brother Eugene “Gene” Abernethy. Jack was born in Washington, D.C. and was the son of Charles and Marie (Murphy) Abernethy. He and his brother Gene were named after prizefighters Jack Dempsy and Gene Tunney. He was a graduate of Bethesda Chevy Chase High School and lived and worked in this area his entire life.

After some vocational training, Jack started his career as a mechanic for Chevy Chase Chevrolet in Bethesda, Maryland. He was a veteran of the Korean war working as a vehicle and tank mechanic. Many years later he started his first business when he opened A&W Camping Supply on Rockville Pike. After selling this business in the early 1980s, he opened Jack’s Back Alley Garage in Kensington, MD, behind the Kensington Fire Station in the alley known as “Gasoline Alley”. Jack served the community for over 30 years, servicing vehicles and selling used cars until his retirement at the age of 81.

Jack left a legacy of honesty and hard work with all those who crossed his path. Never turning anyone away who was in need. He had “fixed” many cars and helped many keep their families on the road without worrying about how soon they could pay. Not only did he serve his community, but he served his local church, Holy Cross Parish, helping to build portions of it as well as service their vehicles.

Most of all, Jack was a devoted husband, father and neighbor. Raising his family in Garrett Park, MD...he was always available to his neighbors and family. He was married to the love of his life and “best girl” Pat for 56 years until her passing in 2007.



Thomas Franklin Williams, a long-time resident of Maryland, passed away on January 21 in Garrett Park, Maryland. He attended local schools in Connecticut, graduating from Norwich Regional Vocational Technical School, now known as Norwich Technical High School, specializing in professional drafting.

Tommy was an avid tennis player and aficionado of the sport.

He was predeceased by his parents Benjamin F. Williams and Ethel T. Deas; and will be lovingly remembered by his five siblings.

Funeral services and interment will be private.