



send a letter addressed to both the developer and Holy Cross Academy regarding town concerns with traffic and landscaping. The Academy is involved because the sale of the property to the developer is still under contract. Therefore, the Academy is working with the developer to ensure adequate response to neighborhood concerns, or else it could cancel the sale of the property.

- Stormwater (Phil Schulp). The town now has received the complete topographical map of the area at the end of Rokeby for the town engineer to review. Soon the town will have all the material for the council to consider. And information about the alternatives of a culvert versus a pedestrian bridge, connecting the end of Rokeby to Garrett Park Estates, should be ready for the council to discuss in June. Rokeby Avenue resident Neelam Giri pressed the council on when actual construction might occur, as she had done at the April meeting.
- Town Hall redevelopment (Stephen Paczkowski). The virtual public meeting in April went well, with discussion based on three general alternatives. These consist of: basic repair without structural changes, major reconstruction (including the possibility of digging out a basement to provide more space, and changes in the internal arrangement of rooms), and expanding the scope to include work on other town properties at the same time. He hopes to have a draft request for proposals (RFP) for an architectural firm to flesh out the alternatives and their probable cost. Councilmember Paczkowski then went on to explain that Montgomery County government has a draft of a new long-term development plan, “Thrive Montgomery 2050,” covering a wide range of issues, such as environmental protection, equitable access to good housing, expanded bus rapid transit, and compact/walkable communities. He indicated that various groups in the county are raising many questions about the report, and that it could have implications for the areas near Garrett Park.
- Archives (Mario Grande). Archivist McDonald is working on organizing oral histories and early records from the Town Hall (from the days when it was a church).

The final item for the evening was the Town Manager’s monthly report. Expenditures and receipts are within expected levels. Several RFPs are in process, including for tree maintenance services, trash collection services, and copier/printer leasing. And please note: the town is not yet accepting reservations for use of the Town Hall (a prohibition that may be reassessed at the end of June). And, so, the meeting came to an end.

Ed Lincoln  
*Bugle* Reporter

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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.

## Citizens Association Notes

Hello, neighbors! Towards the end of May, we sent out a survey on our town listservs to gauge citizens’ interest and comfort-level with holding CA-organized 4th of July festivities this year. Thanks to all who responded! We received over 70 responses, and the vast majority indicated interest in both a parade and post-parade gathering this year. We also received some great theme suggestions! As such, we’re excited to announce that the CA is proceeding with plans for celebrating 4th of the July this year!

The parade will be July 4th at 10:30am, followed by a post-parade gathering with music and a food truck at Penn Place, near the basketball courts. The theme for this year’s celebration is *Heroes*, one of our favorite ideas that was submitted. Broad interpretations of the theme are encouraged – think everyday heroes to fictional superheroes! As in years past, we’ll need volunteers to help with parade judging and traffic control. We’ll send additional details soon, including links to sign up to volunteer or pre-register for the parade, via the town listservs. We’ll also include this information in the July Bugle. We’re organizing these events in accordance with CDC and Montgomery County COVID-19 guidance, so please check those websites for the latest information.

After a challenging year and cancelled 2020 festivities, we’re so excited to celebrate this year’s Independence Day with you.

## Town Manager’s Notes

### 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](http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal)  
New to town? Contact [adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:managerandrea@garrettparkmd.gov).

Andrea Fox, Town Manager

## Musicale is Back!

A VIRTUAL PROGRAM on June 13, Sunday 4-5PM! Link will be sent on GP Listserv. Please join us.

It's been a long COVID time. Another 2020 casualty was the Musicale, our annual fundraiser for the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship since 1997. On the bright side, we've had a full year to develop our skills at remote virtual gatherings. So, we're holding a Virtual Musicale, and we'd like you to participate! All funds raised support a year of private music lessons for a GPES 5th grader. Music of all genres, jazz, pop, folk, classical will be pre recorded and presented by your friends and neighbors. And, new this year, is a silent auction for special music events.

Calling all singers! The finale of this one-hour program is a virtual chorus of The Beatles' tune "Here Comes The Sun." To sing in our virtual finale, please let us know and we'll send instructions and music accompaniment in a backing track. You'll sing along, record at home, send us the file, and voilà, our professional studio will produce an amazing choral video collage will be our finale!

The 2021 Virtual Musicale will be live-streamed at 4:00pm to 4:50pm on Sunday, June 13th.

Interested in joining the chorus finale? Need more information? Please contact Sue Petito ([s.petito@yahoo.com](mailto:s.petito@yahoo.com)) or Megumi (Meme) Lincoln ([mslincoln12@gmail.com](mailto:mslincoln12@gmail.com)).

Online donations are gratefully accepted at [https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=UTPNG3378UWU](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=UTPNG3378UWU). Checks should be made payable to Garrett Park Community Fund and mailed to PO Box 381, Garrett Park, MD 20896. All donations are tax-deductible.



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## Local Developments

### The Little Towns Children's Museum

Just down the road in Randolph Hills is a new play museum that might be the needed escape from the heat that parents with little ones are looking for this summer. The Little Towns Children's Museum opened during the pandemic but was originally limited to private play. On April 3rd as Montgomery

County lifted some restrictions, they officially opened for full open play.

When you walk in the space you are transported to a "little town." There are 6,000 square feet of fun for children to explore, including a Fresh Market grocery store, fire and police stations, a vet, post office, disco, gym, Dry Bar, and Georgetown Cupcakes. It totally makes sense that owner J. Allen is an interior designer who once appeared on HGTV's "Design Star" because the space is perfectly laid out with details and precision.

With two young children of her own, Allen enjoyed filling her days with museums for her kids but got frustrated with the packing and preparation required to go into the city along with the "jockeying for parking."

"I thought there really should be something like this that I can get to easily," she said. "I live in Bethesda, so it was a goal to have the space close to home."

Lucky for everyone in the Garrett Park community, this new small business is only two miles away.

To learn more about Little Towns, or to book online for open play, their website is [www.thelittletownsmd.com](http://www.thelittletownsmd.com).

Meghan Wendt

## Local Computer Repair

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**David Altar**  
301-602-2713  
[David.altar1@gmail.com](mailto:David.altar1@gmail.com)



**Garrett Park  
Nursery School**

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2021-2022!

Join your community this Fall in a co-operative, play-based learning environment for 2- 3- and 4-year-olds

[www.GarrettParkNurserySchool.org](http://www.GarrettParkNurserySchool.org)

## From the Town Archives

**Garrett Players** - You can now learn more about Garrett Park's theater group by checking out our new exhibit in the glass case in the post office lobby. You'll find reproductions of photographs, programs, and other memorabilia from productions. And, if you can identify some of the people in the unlabeled photos, let me know.

**Virtual Volunteers** - Since November, we've had several volunteers working remotely on projects. The first project is to transcribe handwritten meeting ledgers and records that I scanned in 2020. The finished transcriptions will allow for better access and searching of names and events. The second project involves researching early (ca. 1900) Black residents of Garrett Park. We'll add this information to our historical Resident Files, which are open to researchers.

**COVID Collection** - There's still time to donate to our COVID Collection, which currently includes poetry and a handful of photographs from around town. We welcome more photographs, poetry, journal entries, and personal stories of how the pandemic affected your lives and loved ones. If you wish to donate, please email me to arrange a time to drop off your donations and complete a short donor form.

**Archives Hours** - Recently, I returned to full-time work and have reduced my hours in the Town Archives. However, I am checking email regularly and will continue to accept research and appointment requests. Generally, I'll be available most Friday afternoons, weekends, and occasional evenings. I'll also be working closely with Town Office staff to accommodate other schedules and needs.

I look forward to seeing you in the Town Archives this summer!

Claire McDonald, MLIS  
Town Archivist  
Garrett Park, MD  
Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov  
<https://garrettparkarchives.omeka.net/>

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**Get to Know Your Neighbor**

*The Bugle*  
interviews  
**Michelle Forman**



**Where in Garrett Park do you live? (Can be as general or specific as you want)**  
I live just outside of Garrett Park in White Flint Park.  
**How long have you lived here?**  
Since August 2015  
**Why did you choose to live in Garrett Park?**

In addition to finding a home with more space for our family, we wanted a quiet neighborhood that had a strong community feel. We also considered schools for our two then-preschoolers where they could get a good education in a diverse student community. It was a tough market for buyers and we were outbid on several other houses in other neighborhoods, but I still believe we ended up with the best house and the best community for us!  
**Tell me about...Foodhini. Why did you decide to get involved and make this program work in the North Bethesda community?**

Bringing Foodhini to the community was admittedly selfishly motivated! Since the beginning of the pandemic, food – both cooking at home and bringing in restaurant meals – was one of the primary ways we found adventure and excitement while stuck at home. During this school year, when schools were closed I decided to take the day off work to spend with my kids and one of the things we decided to do was have a “food adventure” for lunch. I asked my friends for suggestions of their favorite international restaurants and Foodhini was suggested! While it’s not a restaurant, it was food representing several different cultures and was made by immigrants and refugees from those places. As soon as I saw that neighborhood delivery only required 10 or more households, I knew I could easily bring this to Garrett Park and the Estates... and to my own family! It’s been so much fun hearing from neighbors about their experiences, and I feel good knowing my community is supporting this wonderful small business.  
**What does your day to day look like as we ease out of the pandemic? (Working from home, on location, etc).**

My husband and I are both fortunate to still be working full time from home while our kids (both GPES students – 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades) are doing virtual learning. I work for the Association of Public Health Laboratories doing media relations and other public communications. My day is busy between simultaneously parenting and being a professional, but my organization’s leadership is flexible and respectful of work-life balance. I parent a little while I’m working, and I work a little while I’m parenting.



It’s all a balance. Throughout the pandemic, we’ve been acutely aware and appreciative of our privileged situation.

**What do you like most about living in Garrett Park?**

My family jokes that sometimes it seems like this is Mayberry! There are always lots of people out walking (even pre-pandemic), we walk to school, my kids’ friends are mostly in the neighborhood, everyone waves even if we don’t actually know each other – it’s a true community! It is exactly what we were looking for in a neighborhood.

**What are your favorite local shops, restaurants or hangouts?**

Java Nation is a favorite! We also love being able to walk to Kuya Ja’s Lechon Belly for adobo chicken sandwiches, lumpia, and the best beef empanadas. Other favorite restaurants include A&J, Sichuan Jin River, China Bistro, Sheba Ethiopian, New Kam Fong, Los Chorros, Ixtapalapa – I could go on forever! Favorite shops include Sarah’s Handmade Ice Cream, Penzey’s Spices, Bertram’s Inkwell, Knowles Station Wine & Co., 7 Locks Brewing, Mastiha Greek Bakery, and so many others. Can you tell we like to cook and eat?

**What else would you like to share about yourself or your family?**

Another selfishly motivated community endeavor I started was the Garrett Park Reasonable Expectations Book Club. As a busy working parent who loves to read, I really wanted to be part of a book club but I also worried that I wouldn’t be able to finish the book in time. I thought perhaps there were others like me and I was right! While the group is mostly parents, it’s open to anyone who is interested in a casual, fun book club that’s not always completely focused on the book discussion! I am the coordinator, but people volunteer to host which means choosing the book, date, and time. Everyone is welcome to join the meetups whether you read the entire book or not! It has been a great way for me (and I suspect others in the neighborhood!) to read more, have a group of people with whom to share a love of books, and to get to know others in the community. I’ve made so many wonderful friends and read lots of great books. We do spend a lot of time chatting about everything but the book... and we love it! Anyone who is interested should just email me so I can add you to the list.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Observations of a Budget Dweeb**

Last month, I outlined the growing gap between the Town’s budget estimates and budget actuals over the past four years. In the interest of transparency, four additional budget facts of which residents may be unaware are presented below:

- Revenues. On May 10, the Maryland Municipal League (MML) provided a table showing how much Federal money Maryland towns could expect from the Federal American Rescue Plan. While preliminary, it showed that Garrett Park is likely to receive well over \$800 thousand (a May 25 conversation with MML staff suggests that \$875 thousand is a lower bound). Comparatively, the Town’s 2022 operating budget is \$1,399 thousand. Yet, there has been no discussion of this significant topic at Council meetings.
- Operating Expenditures. Over five years (2017 actual to the 2021 estimate), operating expenditures are projected to grow by 74%. While I am not necessarily suggesting the increase is unwarranted, wouldn’t it be helpful to know the rationale behind this dramatic increase?
- Council Development of the Annual Budget. This year the Council suspended the usual budget development work session. Presented with a 2022 budget proposal that it had no role in developing, the Council spent little time (about 1.5 hours) reviewing the budget before its introduction in April and adoption in May. It is not clear when or if a more deliberate budget development process will be restored.
- Capital Budget. The 2022 capital budget provides \$1.4 million. Yet, there is no capital plan. Rather, funds are simply “parked” in various categories without stated rationales. It is clear that the renovation of Town Hall will require significant funding. Yet, currently only \$204 thousand is designated for that purpose.

Ken Schwartz

**Untitled Letter**

Last month in the *Bugle*, Ken Schwartz wrote expressing his concerns with overly conservative budgeting by the town. I share his views and also have a concern about lack of transparency in development and approval of the town budget. In Garrett Park the budget is adopted as an ordinance; I am keenly aware that Otto von Bismarck famously said that laws are like sausages: it is better not to see them being made. But if you *want* to know what goes into the budget – to learn about decisions that determine how *your* tax dollars are being spent – you should be able to find out. Indeed, Maryland law requires such openness.

In 2020, the pandemic understandably necessitated a departure from the normal budgeting process, both in timing (budget adoption a month later

than the norm) and procedure (the usual budget work session was virtual, for example). Opportunity for citizen input was minimal, but the town was coping with constraints imposed at that time by evolving pandemic measures. A year later, however, there is no reason why greater notice and opportunity for citizen input could not have been implemented. For fiscal year 2022 (which begins in just a few weeks) there was no

Even if one did not want to participate, a resident should at least be able to find out what considerations and information shape the budget. In the past, a “plain English” summary of background information for the budget proposed by the mayor and town manager was prepared for the Council. This brief document was of course also made available to residents to explain how certain recommendations were arrived at, and the sources and objectives of town funds. At some point, the plain summary was abandoned. This year, a handful of charts were supplied, but largely without adequate context. Don’t get me wrong: graphics can be a terrific way to convey otherwise complex information. But they need a framework that explains

work session at all. Budget materials were not posted until 72 hours before the April Council meeting at which they were first considered; that’s two months later than the usual outset of budget consideration. The budget was adopted at the May meeting, for which the customary reminder to residents was issued a mere 19 minutes prior.

how the graphics relate to and support the various proposals within the budget. Background information is conspicuously absent from the town website, as well: for example, those FY2022 charts have been removed, and the most recent report on the Finance page is dated 2017.

Why is any of this important? The budget is the means by which the town establishes its priorities and objectives. In the broadest sense it should reflect the aspirations of town residents. If residents are in the dark about the basis for the budget and how it was adopted, they cannot be confident that the town’s operations will rationally reflect a consensus of residents’ desires.

Chris Keller

# SUMMER 2021 FOOD TRUCKS

JOIN US WEEKLY AT GARRETT PARK POOL

THURSDAY JUNE 3 HARDY BBQ 5-7:30 PM.

THURSDAY JUNE 10 7 STAR WINGS 4-7 PM

FRIDAY JUNE 18 CORNED BEEF KING 5-7 PM

THURSDAY JUNE 24 CHIX STIX 4:30-7:30 PM

THURSDAY JULY 1 TACOS BORRACHOS 4:30-7:30 PM

THURSDAY JULY 8 7 STAR WINGS 4-7 PM

THURSDAY JULY 15 HARDY'S BBQ 5-7:30 PM

THURSDAY JULY 22 O'BOY PIZZA 5-8 PM

THURSDAY JULY 29 TIMBER PIZZA 4:30-7:30 PM

THURSDAY AUGUST 5 O'BOY PIZZA 5-8 PM

THURSDAY AUGUST 12 CHIX STICKS 4:30-7:30 PM

THURSDAY AUGUST 19 TIMBER PIZZA 4:30-7:30 PM

THURSDAY AUGUST 26 7 STAR WINGS 4-7 PM

