



Calendar

Sat Apr 25	Farmers Market, 9am – 1pm, Penn Place	Sat May 15	Farmers Market, 9am – 1pm, Penn Place
Sat May 1	Farmers Market, 9am – 1pm, Penn Place	Sat, May 22	Farmers Market, 9am – 1pm, Penn Place GIVES Collection, 10am – 12pm, at the market
Sat May 8	Farmers Market, 9am – 1pm, Penn Place GIVES Collection, 9am – 12pm outside the PO	Sat May 29	Farmers Market, 9 am – 1pm, Penn Place
Mon May 10	Town Council Meeting, 7:30pm, Virtual	Mon May 31	Memorial Day, Town Office Closed

A Proposal

Dear Readers:

Our goal is to engage you. It should seem evident that a paper which has been in existence since 1953 must do a decent job of engaging its readers, or it wouldn’t have stayed in “business” for so long, but we want to take the time to affirm our commitment to you.

Earlier this year, the *Bugle* sent out a survey to find out “Where we are, how we’re doing, and where we should go.” Overall, you let us know that you are very satisfied with the *Bugle*, and you also gave us some feedback on how we can improve.

One area of interest is our format. While a majority of you either read the paper digitally or using a hybrid model of reading print and digital, we still have a large number of citizens who prefer the printed version. To cater to these interests and suggestions such as seeing more “photos” and a “better online format” as well as the recommendation to “keep it fresh,” we plan to retain our print version, but are also aiming to improve our digital content to keep with the times and to continue to help you stay informed.

Along with improving digital content, we have decided to add some new sections to the main paper. Your top choices of sections included: Town Council Meeting Notes, Citizens Association Notes, Town Resident Contributions, and From The Archives. You have given feedback that you enjoy information about our town government, and are interested in social events and life updates from town residents. Due to these interests, and the aforementioned top sections, we’re looking to add some future new

sections. One section will be “New Developments” which will cover commercial and residential developments of interest in and around Garrett Park. Another section will be “Get to Know Your Neighbor” which will include highlights of residents and employees of the town.

Ultimately our goal is to focus on the traditions that make Garrett Park an amazing place to live, but also to add new ideas, to help keep us all connected, especially at a time when we have had to postpone some of our cherished activities and events to keep everyone safe. Our proposal to you is that we will continue to keep you engaged.

If you have any suggestions for stories for the new sections, or other creative contributions, please send them to garrettbugle@gmail.com.

-Garrett Bugle Staff

This column was written by Meghan Wendt. Meghan Wendt is the Bugle’s new Audience Engagement Editor. Meghan has had a variety of positions in communications and journalism since graduating from Penn State University with a B.A. in Journalism in 2008.

Town Council Meeting Notes

The April meeting of the Town Council was an important one because it included the introduction of the draft budget for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1. Our town may be very small in terms of population, but the town budget involves estimated total receipts or expenditures of almost \$1.5 million, a non-trivial sum. So, dear reader, pay attention.

The evening began with Mayor Kacky noting the outcome of the town election—or non-election since only three candidates were nominated for the three openings. The mayor and councilmembers also expressed appreciation to departing councilmember Dan Simons for his service. The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting were quickly dealt with.

Under presentations by town residents, Ken Schwartz made comments on the proposed budget, about his concern regarding the tendency for overestimating expenditures and underestimating revenues when preparing the annual budget. The result has been a rising annual surplus at the end of the fiscal year (to be carried over to the next fiscal year), which he said was not good budgeting practice. As noted in last month’s discussion of the mid-year adjustments to the current FY2021 budget, the carryover from the previous year was \$400,000. To put this into perspective, the surplus was 32 percent the size of the original FY2021 planned operating expenditures. For more information, see his letter to the editor in this edition of the *Bugle*.

At the outset of the formal presentation of the budget, Mayor Kacky presented several charts showing actual and predicted future revenues, focusing on property values and resulting property tax revenues, as well as past and projected income tax revenues. Her point was that under the current uncertainty about future revenues due to the as-yet unknown impact of the pandemic on income tax receipts and property tax receipts, it behooves the town to be extra cautious in its budgeting. Ken Schwartz and mayor-emeritus Chris Keller felt the assumptions regarding revenues in the proposed budget were too pessimistic. However, the mayor and town manager stuck by their estimates, which were supported by the councilmembers.

The budget projects \$1.39 million in revenues, plus a \$70,000 carryover from the current fiscal year. Operating expenses are set just under \$1.4 million, while just under \$59,000 goes into the capital fund, leaving a \$70,000 surplus to be carried over to the next year. The capital fund is the separate budget that consists of money set aside for upcoming large capital projects, such as the renovation of town hall.

After the big-picture debate, the discussion moved on to various line items on the expenditure side. For the spending details, please see the [complete budget](#) on the town’s website. At the April meeting, the Council voted unanimously to “introduce” the budget. At the May meeting, the council will vote on formally adopting the budget. So, residents have until that May meeting to raise any questions or concerns they might have about how the town proposes to spend its revenues.

Aside from the vote on the introduction of the proposed budget, there were two other action items. The first was a minor correction to the mid-year FY2021 budget changes, involving two small line items that had inadvertently dropped out of the spreadsheet. This was quickly approved. The other was a resolution on “tax duplication.” This ordinance requests the county government to approve tax duplication payments to the town of Garrett Park. “Huh?” you might say. This issue has been

simmering for years and involves the fact that the county collects taxes to provide various services, some of which are not provided to Garrett Park and other incorporated municipalities. For example, Garrett Park pays for its own snow removal on town streets, as well as for street repair, etc. So, we pay county property taxes to fund such county services, but do not receive those services from the county. The issue appears to be complicated—there is actually some rebate to municipalities for this “tax duplication,” but the amount was reduced in 2012, when county tax revenues had fallen due to the drop in real estate values in the 2008-2009 recession, and has not been restored since.

Time for monthly updates.

- Train horns (Dan Simons and Phil Schulp). The town opinion survey has been completed and the results will be posted on the town website. The bottom line appears to be that relatively few residents responded to the survey, and of those who did, relatively few wanted action taken by the town government to deal with the issue.
- Archives (Mario Grande). Work on dealing with old town records continues, as well as on indexing the oral history collection. Archivist Claire McDonald is also developing a disaster plan (how to protect the archives if some disaster hits the town) and she would appreciate donation of old photographs of homes and town buildings.
- Stormwater (Phil Schulp). The surveyors are currently working on the complete inventory of pipes, wires, etc. in the area at the end of Rokeby so that contractors will have a clear idea of what is involved in carrying out the drainage plan when they bid on the project. In response to a question from resident Neelam Giri about when the actual work might start, Councilmember Schulp and town manager Fox said that hopefully the work could begin within two-to-three months after getting that report.
- Arboretum (Gerilee Bennett). Work on the Porcupine Woods restoration project will begin soon, hopefully by the end of April.

Town manager Fox ended the meeting with her monthly report. Town receipts and expenditures continue to track as expected, and the audit of town finances for the fiscal year that ended last June is now complete and numbers are available on the town website. And, she noted, the Citizens Association has said that it would be willing to help on the creation of a new printed Garrett Park directory. On that positive note, the meeting ended.

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)

Audience Engagement Editor: Meghan Wendt

Reporter: Ed Lincoln (Box 348)

Advertising: Margaret Goldsborough (gandgantiques@aol.com)

Distribution: Joanne Schmader (JSchmader@protonmail.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.

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 are Danuta (Dona) Dobosz, Stephen Paczkowski, and Phil Schulp. Since the only confirmed candidates are the three candidates for Council, the election is deemed uncontested and cancelled, consistent with the Town Election Plan - 2021. The candidates are considered elected as of May 3, 2021 and take office at the May 10, 2021 Council Meeting.

Tennis Courts – Help keep the tennis courts in good working order by not using them for skateboarding or as a dog park. The County recently restored the Courts and we want to keep them nice for as long as possible. If you have children or teens in your household, please make sure they know this too.

Yard Signs in the Town ROW - Please do not place yard signs in the Town right-of-way (ROW), including on the grass/planting strip that is between the road and the sidewalk on Strathmore Avenue. Fellow neighbors may give permission to allow a yard sign on their private property (not in the Town ROW).

Town Budget – The FY22 budget will be considered for adoption at the May 10th Town Council Meeting.

This budget is for the period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

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

Musicale is Back!

The Garrett Park Musicale celebrates its 25th year supporting the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship for a GPES student.

On June 13th, Sunday from 4-5pm, we will present a virtual program this year. Just imagine, from the comfort of your OWN home, you will be able to enjoy a variety of music performed by talented resident musicians of all ages. Mark your calendars, please.

Last year's Musicale, our main fundraiser, was another casualty of the COVID19 pandemic. However, the scholarship student persevered and will be featured during the program. This spring, we continue our fund-raising effort via Zoom so we can offer the scholarship to a talented young music student for the next school year.

Calling all musicians young and young-at-heart to participate in the program. Each piece will be under three minutes. The finale of the event will be a rousing chorus of a familiar uplifting song everyone can sing along.

All recordings will be mixed and edited by Garrett Park native, Billy Petito, an accomplished musician who is now Director of Jazz Bands at the School of the Arts in Rochester, NY.

To help you get a better idea of what this year's musicale might look like, [here](#) is an example of a virtual duet performance that was pre-recorded and edited together at a later date.

And [here](#) is an example of what a virtual ensemble performance involving 200+ participants looks like. All participants, Rochester School of the Arts students grades 7-12, learned and recorded their parts from home and contributed their individual performances in the service of this project celebrating Black History Month during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Audio and video are all student performances.

For more information and inquiry about how to participate and produce a video, contact Meme Lincoln (mshlincoln12@gmail.com) or Sue Petito (s.petito@yahoo.com).

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

Jean Christian Abels

REALTOR®



Call
(301) 222 7787

jean@abelsrealestate.com

www.jean-abels.weichert.com



Weichert Abels
REALTORS REAL ESTATE

11309 Kenilworth Ave., Garrett Park - MD



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

Strathmore | Tuckerman | Grosvenor Metro | Rockville Pike | 10401 | Market | Grosvenor Place

Find us on Facebook

Arboretum Committee

Spring arrivals for GP's arboretum

Have you noticed 17 new trees with their root balls wrapped in burlap parked in the pool parking lot? Town Arborist Phil Normandy has chosen an interesting mix of native and ornamental trees to be planted this spring (if they haven't already by the time you read this). Among the natives are oaks and an American elm. The elm is a 'Jefferson' elm, cloned from a tree planted in the 1930's on the National Mall that survived Dutch elm disease. Its high disease tolerance is helping elms to be repopulated in the U.S. One of the new oaks, a 'Taylor' oak, is an unusual hybrid combining the best traits of three different native oaks. Next spring we'll be treated to the big pink double blossoms of a weeping Extraordinaire cherry and the white bell-shaped flowers of a Japanese snowbell which are among the ornamentals coming to town. For a complete list of the new trees and where they'll be planted, check the Arboretum Committee's [webpage](#).

From the Town Archives



"How many of us would be willing to settle when we're young for what we eventually get? All those plans we make...what happens to them? It's only a handful of the lucky ones that can look back and say that they even came close."

— Moss Hart, "[You Can't Take it With You](#)"

Fifty-seven years ago this month, the Garrett Players performed its final play as Garrett Park's homegrown theater group. Three months later, in August 1964, it would merge with the Kensington Players to become the Garrett-Kensington Players.

The Garrett Players' final performance was "You Can't Take it With You," a Pulitzer Prize winning comedic play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. As with the Garrett Player's 30-some previous plays, this one featured a mostly Garrett Park cast and crew. The Players had been going strong since the early 1950s, offering 1-2 performances a year of the popular dramas, romantic comedies, and musicals of the day. At least two productions, "The Gypsy in Me" and "The South Shall Rise Again," were written by Garrett Park residents.

In the early years of the Players, performances were held on the tiny stage of the schoolhouse.

During scene changes, cast members frequently had to go outside in order to enter the stage from the other side—out one door and in another. After the new school was built, the cast and crew enjoyed having a “real” stage.

I recently digitized the Garrett Players Collection and added some of the materials to the Archives website. If you’re interested in learning more about this collection or if you have memorabilia you’d like to share, please email me at Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov.

[Photo: Cast of “You Can’t Take it With You,” 1964. Town Archives.]

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

Call Todd today, your local neighborhood realtor!



TODD HARRIS
HOMES

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

~ Garrett Park resident ~

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

 **EcoBroker**
CERTIFIED

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

Don't just take my word for it

BEST
WASHINGTONIAN
2020

&
2019
2018
2017
2016
2015

**Buying?
Selling?
Call me.**

Jeremy

The One Name in Real Estate
301.252.0389
www.jeremyhomes.com

Letter to the Editor

A Proposed Wager with Mayor Kacky

In recent months, I have been engaged in a friendly debate with Mayor Kacky over the 2021 mid-year budget and the 2022 proposed budget. Next month, the Town Council will approve the 2022 budget in final form. I expect it will make few changes from the draft introduced at the April 12 Council meeting.

I believe that budget development and execution are core roles of town government. One essential element is assurance that budget estimates are reasonably accurate. Yet, Garrett Park budget estimates have been increasingly erroneous. Chronically, they are “pessimistic,” understating likely revenues and overstating likely expenditures, thereby generating large, unplanned surpluses at the end of the fiscal year. Want facts? Consider the following mis-estimates as shown in independent Town audit reports for the past four fiscal years (2017-2020). The numbers below represent the revenue/expenditure variances between the mid-year budget estimates, approved two-thirds through the fiscal year, and the actual year end totals. All the variances below represent more positive outcomes than projected by the Town:

- 2017. +\$158 thousand
- 2018. +\$192 thousand
- 2019. +\$349 thousand
- 2020. +\$400 thousand

In short, the variances widened year after year. What about 2021? Consider the following. End of March budget data indicate that revenues already exceed the level projected for the entire year (which ends June 30). Likewise, operating expenses are running behind officially projected levels.

Like prior years, I expect that both the 2021 mid-year estimates and the pending 2022 budget estimates are too pessimistic. If true, budget planning is undermined, especially with regard to assessing financing options for expensive capital projects like the upcoming modernization of Town Hall.

So, what is my proposed friendly wager with Mayor Kacky? The proposed bet is as follows: Although the recently enacted 2021 mid-year budget assumed no carry forward of funds into 2022, I believe that the carry forward will be \$200 thousand or more. If I am incorrect, I will shut up and complain no longer. But if I am correct, Mayor Kacky will seek to propose more realistic revenue and operating cost estimates in the context of both the 2022 mid-year budget (to be reviewed by Council in March, 2022) and the draft 2023 budget (to be reviewed by Council in April/May, 2022). What do you say, Mayor Kacky – is it a bet?

Ken Schwartz