

Continued next page

concern whether it could be done safely, or whether diners would be comfortable with cars passing so close.

- **Town Hall tree removal.** Councilmembers Bennett and Paczkowski notified the council that the town has gotten a county permit for removal of large, diseased trees next to the Town Hall. This was necessitated by the fact that the Town Hall is a historic property. This was a reminder for residents that any tree removal at a designated historic property site requires a county permit.
- **Sidewalk repaving.** The biggest new business item was repaving sidewalks on Waverly (from the Waverly/Kenilworth triangle to Montrose) and Oxford (the block from Kenilworth to Montrose), into which the Flexi-Pave issue was folded. The mayor had announced in June that she intended to move forward with the offer from Capitol Flexi-Pave to install a 50-foot demonstration for free. At the July meeting, John Tschirky made his residents' presentation in favor of using Flexi-Pave. But prior to the September council meeting, there was some push-back on the Garrett Park Listservs. As a result, an action item on the draft September agenda to approve the free installation and setting its location (at the Kenilworth/Waverly triangle) was dropped. Instead, Flexi-Pave would be considered as a possibility for Waverly and Oxford sidewalk project without doing the free demonstration project. Prior to the September meeting, Mayor Kacky, and councilmembers Schulp and Paczkowski had walked the route of the sidewalks with the town engineer. The engineer will work up designs and estimated costs, including an option of using Flexi-Pave or a similar permeable material.

Here is a combined selection of monthly updates

- **Stormwater.** In September, Councilmember Schulp announced that a contractor was lined up to carry out the first phase of the work at the end of Rokeby by Garrett Park Estates—improved drainage affecting the properties nearby. By October the town should also have drawings for the final phase of the project—how to handle the pedestrian/bike path from Rokeby into the Estates: a path with culvert, something that looks like a bridge, or an actual bridge. But he also made an intriguing statement that the county may be responsible for the whole cost of this and other drainage projects in town. The town pays a fee to the county for various services, of which apparently one is stormwater drainage.
- **Town Hall.** Councilmember Paczkowski is almost finished putting together an RFP for bids on design options and estimated costs for the Town Hall renovation.
- **Strathmore Redevelopment.** The town has sent a letter with suggestions to the developers for the St. Angela Hall/Holy Cross

property. The developers say they have incorporated some suggestions, such as a traffic light at Strathmore/Stillwater, not others, such as a road connecting the development to Tuckerman Lane. The county will hold two public hearings on rezoning the property in November.

- **American Rescue Plan.** Councilmember Dobosz reported in September that she will set up a committee to establish proposals for using the first tranche of \$500,000 coming to the town. Proposals can include capital improvement projects, a category excluded in earlier draft versions of the state guidelines for use of these funds.

Town manager Fox's monthly report indicated that for July and August revenues and expenditures were in line with expectations. And her financial report shows for July (the beginning of the fiscal year) a positive carryover of unspent funds from the previous fiscal year of \$480,003. With that report, the meeting concluded.

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.

Town Manager's Notes

In the past year and a half, sadly, former Town Managers Gene Swearingen and Ted Pratt both passed away. Each manager had their own style, and they were public servants with Garrett Park's best interests at heart. When I started in this position, Gene was generous with his time and connected me with town manager colleagues in nearby towns. Though I never met Ted, I've joked many times to Town staff, "I don't know Ted, but I like him." Much of what a Town Manager does is behind the scenes and decidedly not flashy, but the legacy of Gene and Ted's work will continue to live on through the many tasks, projects, and issues they tackled.

Please note that The October Council meeting will be held October 18th (rather than October 11th) at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Meeting details will be on the Town website.

Town Office Highlights:

- The Town's allocation from the US Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan Act funding is \$1,033,537. In July, the

Town received 50% of the total allocation; the remaining 50% will be allocated in July 2022. The final guidelines for eligible uses of the funds are not yet available.

- This fall, the Town Office and Arboretum Committee will partner with the University of Maryland PALS program to improve workflow and other processes related to the maintenance of the arboretum.
- The Town Office continues to work through a backlog of RFPs, and contractors were recently selected for drainage improvements at lower Rokeby; space planning in Penn Place; and refuse and recycling.

Yard Waste and Leaf Collection:

As of October 1, yard waste will be picked up on Mondays year-round. Separately, weekly leaf removal will occur from October 15 through December 15. Leaves will be collected as early in the week as possible. Place leaves in rows alongside the curb street side, and remove sticks, rocks, trash, and other debris that can damage the machinery. Shredded leaves or grass clippings should be bagged and put out for the regular yard waste collection on Mondays. Rain or inclement weather will delay leaf collection. Parents, please discourage your children from playing in leaves along the curb.

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 – Spooky Woods is Back!

The Citizens Association is pleased to announce that after a one-year hiatus, Spooky Woods is returning. Please mark your calendars: **Spooky Woods will be Saturday, October 30, 7:00-9:00 pm.** Enter Spooky Woods by Penn Place. In order to make these events happen, we need lots of volunteers! For instance, we'll need a minimum of five scare stations and

several ushers. Please sign up for the various slots [here](#).

Please note that in the event of rain, we'll need to cancel Spooky Woods. On Saturday, an email will be sent to the various list-servs confirming whether it's still on.

G.I.V.E.S.

A Happy Autumn from G.I.V.E.S.! It's been a few months since we've provided an update on our efforts but rest assured, G.I.V.E.S. is going strong! While the pandemic has unfortunately lingered, we were able to resume in-person collections in the spring and summer, so 2021 has thankfully been relatively productive. With fall upon us, G.I.V.E.S. is thrilled to announce that our ever popular Soup Supper fundraiser will be back this year -- Sunday, November 7th from 5-7pm at Town Hall. If you are fully vaccinated, please join us and be part of a 40+ year Garrett Park tradition to help those in need while sharing delicious homemade soups and meeting your neighbors. Consider donating the money you would have spent on dinner to help support [Stepping Stones Shelter](#) in Rockville, MD and [Thrive DC](#) in Washington, D.C. who benefit tremendously from all your donations of any amount, especially during these continued trying times.

G.I.V.E.S. will continue with in-person collections outside the Post Office (weather permitting) on the first Saturday of each month. If you miss us then, 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. Reminder -- we only accept cash and checks at this time but are still working toward offering an electronic donation option.

If you've volunteered to join [G.I.V.E.S.](#) and host Saturday morning collections, you will soon receive an email with a link to a Sign-Up Genius. Please choose the date/time that works best for you in 2022. And if you haven't joined G.I.V.E.S. but are looking for a way to become involved in your local community, help others less fortunate, and can spare **JUST 2 HOURS PER YEAR**, please contact us at garrettparkgives@gmail.com.

With gratitude,

Molly Shuck and Natalie Grande (Co-Presidents) and
Therese Keating (Treasurer)

Arboretum Committee

The GP Arboretum Tree Walk is back!
Sunday, October 24, 1 pm

Please join Town Arborist Phil Normandy and the Arboretum Committee on a stroll through Garrett Park's fall colors. For those who've never been on one of these walks with Phil, you're sure to come away with wonderful insights into the trees you pass by every day. Please join us! We'll meet in front of the Post Office at 1 pm, Sunday, October 24.

Local Developments

Residents Have a Voice in Town Developments

“If your kid is currently in elementary school or younger, there’s a good chance he or she will be in Woodward one day,” John King, Garrett Park resident of Argyle Ave wrote in an August Garrett Park Neighbors listserv email. He followed up by letting residents know that if they would like to participate in helping Woodward meet the needs of Garrett Park kids, they could consider attending community meetings, and he listed information on different phase meetings from the county.

If you’re new to GP, you may be wondering who John King is, and why he has been sending updates on Woodward, the naming of White Flint vs. North Bethesda, and Grosvenor Strathmore developments. King got his start on PTAs when his kids were elementary aged, and from there he joined the White Flint Community Coalition in which the largest property owners joined together to have a unified voice in coordinating as the stretch of land from approximately White Flint Mall to Pike and Rose became redeveloped moving from strip malls to a new urban, more walkable approach. According to King, “We decided we should have a unified Garrett Park, Garrett Park Estates, Luxmanor, Parkwood, condo associations, comprised of several thousand households, knowing we weren’t going to stop it, but to make sure the White Flint Plan was something that we could deal with.”

10 years later, Pike and Rose is the only solidified redevelopment from the plan, but other developments are currently under way. Due to the fact that some developments take a long time to make their way to fruition, and are initially in the news, but then they lose steam, King’s goal is to make sure residents are aware of these changes. “When I see issues that the town would be interested in, I like to send them out,” he said.

Since new developments are required to have a community meeting, if he receives notices from the various groups he is a member of, he makes sure to send them to the Garrett Park Neighbors listserv. During community meetings, residents and other stakeholders then have an opportunity to have their voice heard. For example, during the Woodward virtual meetings, people could post questions in chat, and then they were answered in the meeting.

If you have any questions on surrounding developments, King is happy to answer your questions. Feel free to email him at jmwking@gmail.com. If you’re not already a member, joining the Garrett Park Neighbors listserv is free and easy. Just send a blank email to the automated subscription address: Garrettparkneighbors+subscribe@groups.io.

Meghan Wendt

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

Jean Christian Abels

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Get to Know Your Neighbor

Ajay Gulati

Where in Garrett Park do you live? (Can be as general or specific as you want) Kenilworth Ave. (south of Strathmore).

How long have you lived here? Three years.

Why did you choose to live in Garrett Park? I always loved the neighborhood when I lived in Parkside. So when an opportunity came to buy my house, I jumped on it. Also, sending my son to good schools is important and another factor in moving into GP.

Tell me about...raising a puppy during the pandemic. Any advice you have for adoption, training, dog parks in the area etc? Raising a puppy is hard, but I think being home during the

pandemic made it a little easier since we were always home. It also forced me to get out and about which turned into a positive because I met lots of neighbors and got some exercise. Overall it was a good thing to have gotten Shadow during the pandemic.

What does your day to day look like as we ease out of the pandemic? (Working from home, on location, etc). It's a mixture of working from home, being onsite, walking the dog, and spending some time with friends and family.

What do you like most about living in Garrett Park? My neighbors, the wonderful homes and most importantly the feel of being in a beautiful area away from all the traffic. Also love the sounds of outdoor life, the train (once in a while) and living across GPES the sounds of children playing.

What are your favorite local shops, restaurants or hangouts? I like Java Nation for their pastries and delicious coffee.

What else would you like to share about yourself or your family? I am very informal so stop by and say hello, you will usually see me in outside my house chatting with my neighbors or random people walking their dogs. So don't hesitate to say hello.

From the Town Archives



Only known photograph of the pavilion from an 1890 sales brochure (Town Archives)

If you take a magnifying glass and examine the 1891 map of Garrett Park, you will find the word, *Pavilion* in a small wooded area at the corner of Argyle and Rokeby Avenues (what is now 4701 Argyle). What was the pavilion?

Along with macadamized avenues, “a large and commodious general store,” and 21 daily train stops, the pavilion was one of many features to entice home seekers to Garrett Park in 1890. Full-page advertisements in the Sunday Herald for the town described the pavilion as “large and ornamental” and located “near the principal spring.”

Open air dancing pavilions like this one were popular in the 1890s. Newspaper social columns frequently recounted events at pavilions in Garrett Park, Glen Echo, Linden, Chevy Chase Lake, and other resort sites along the Potomac. The lists of

attendees at these events read like a “who’s who” of Montgomery County.

The pavilion in Garrett Park was used for much more than dancing, though. It was the site for meetings of the Garrett Park Improvement Company, services for the Kensington Presbyterian Church, fundraising events to build St. James Chapel (today’s Town Hall), and Garrett Park School commencement ceremonies. According to *Garrett Park: A History of the Town from its Beginnings to 1970*, the pavilion, which “stood behind the spring ... amid great oak, maple and tulip trees,” was also a favorite spot for picnics, roller skating, and other outdoor activities.

We know the pavilion was built before 1890, but we don’t know the exact timing. A drawing by early resident Harriett Holmes Defandorf dates it at 1888. Sadly, by 1914, the pavilion had fallen into disuse and disrepair and was removed. Today, it remains part of the town’s collective memory in the Town Archives.



Drawing by Harriett Holmes Defandorf ca. 1950s (Town Archives, Directories Collection)

Claire McDonald, MLIS
Town Archivist
Garrett Park, MD

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

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GP Conservation Action Network – Green Tip of the Month

Composting – Is it worth doing?

Many residents of Garrett Park compost either in their backyard or through one of several available services, for the monthly cost of a couple of lattes. In 2017, [Montgomery County](#)'s Department of Environmental Protection estimated approximately 1,050,000 residents generated 124,000 tons of food waste, roughly 24 lbs. per person per year or 24,000 lbs. for Garrett Park's 1,000 residents. A 2013 County [waste composition study](#) showed food waste to comprise 22.8 % of total municipal solid waste (MSW). This food waste that is placed in regular trash is incinerated at the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility (MCRRF). The Town's contractor delivers our MSW to the Shady Grove Transfer Station in Derwood, where it is compacted into containers, loaded onto railcars, and makes a 20-mile trip to Dickerson, MD. The containers are unloaded, trucked from the on-site railyard to the facility's refuse building. Three incinerators burn an average of 1,500 tons per day, using about seven megawatts of power, and generating about 63 megawatts, enough to power 40,000 homes. The [State of Maryland Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2017](#) (most recent year available) shows that the MCRRF produced 600,362 tons of CO2 emissions. According to [EPA's WARM Model](#), if Garrett Park composted rather than disposed of its estimated 24,000 lbs. of food waste, **it would reduce 448 tons of CO2 created annually.** While it is true that some greenhouse gas is emitted by the transport to collect the food waste or machinery used to turn it into compost, it is clear that composting makes a difference. Join your many neighbors, who are already composting. There are several composting companies that will pick up from Garrett Park. One of them, Compost Crew, offers a discount to GP residents. You can find link to the discount code on the Town website [here](#). Still not sure? Ask your neighbors about their composting experience!

"Green Tip of the Month" is sponsored by the Garrett Park Conservation Action Network, a group of residents concerned about environmental issues and committed taking action locally. To join the GPCAN listserv, contact Joanne Schmader at JSchmader@protonmail.com.

Peanut the Penguin –Interview with Local Children's Book Author Aruna M. Lepore

The Bugle interviewed Garrett Park resident and debut author Aruna M. Lepore (Oxford St.) on her upcoming children's picture book *Peanut the Penguin*. The story is about little Peanut finding a way to solve the problem of sharing his unique talent with the other more conventional penguins.

What inspired or motivated you to write the book?

Growing up in Trinidad, my mom was very central to my life. She's one of those moms who unconditionally provides love and everything I could possibly want. I learned that and passed those values onto my children. I used those values in the stories I made up for them. A lot of children's books now are based on humor. I don't see enough stories that are based on that one sympathetic character who can bring out some sort of empathy in children, who goes through a difficult journey with disappointments, but whose story ends on a high point. This is the premise of *Peanut the Penguin*.

What did you enjoy most about working on this book?

The thing that I enjoyed the most was doing this with my kids. I did this during my pandemic year, upstairs, while my kids were next to me on their virtual schooling sessions. Every so often, they'd get up to check out my paintings and give me input. They'd say "Mom, I love this, but that looks a little strange... change it." and I'd tell them "You're absolutely right." It was both helpful from a child's perspective and also made it enjoyable and feel like they were a part of it.

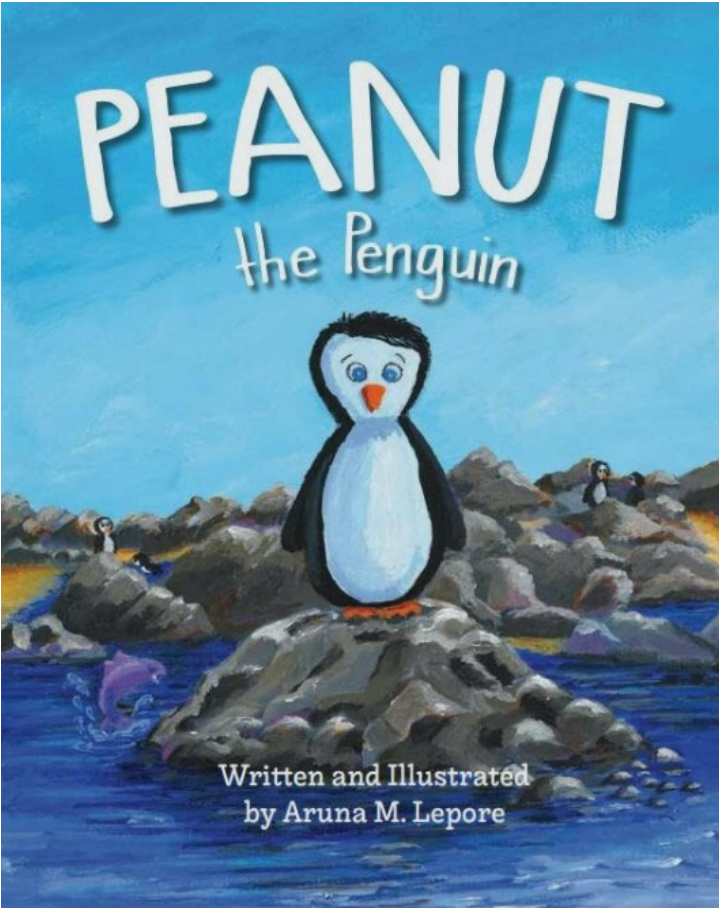
You've said that you wanted this book to be a throwback to the era of hand-painted storybooks. Tell us more about why this is so special or meaningful to you.

We grew up on books published in the 60s and 70s, mostly from England, before the time of graphic artists. There were hand-painted illustrations on every page. These books have a classic way of storytelling, with fairy tales and beautiful pictures. I wrote the book based on values my mom gave me and on the type of book that I would like to see out on a shelf now. I don't see too many hand-illustrated books anymore. So instead of hiring an illustrator, I painted the illustrations. I did a minor in art, and I have always loved painting. Growing up in a country where there's color everywhere, I enjoy painting with color as much as possible, as I did in this book's illustrations.

What key messages do you hope children will come away with reading this book?

I would like for kids to connect with their sympathetic side, their empathetic side, their compassion. I'd like them to feel connected to their sensitivities or emotions through a character—rather than laugh at a character. For Peanut, I think what the character is trying to say is not to give up. He has a gift and it's ok to be different and unique and to celebrate that uniqueness, and to not give up if you have a good intention—no matter how difficult it is to execute. Eventually, you'll have success. The support of family is extremely important as well.

Peanut the Penguin is for kids 3 to 8 years old and will be available this month as an eBook on Amazon, Nook, Kobo, Barnes and Noble and Apple and in print on Amazon and most everywhere books are sold. Join [Aruna M. Lepore](#) for a book launch and signing at the Garrett Park Town Hall in mid-October (details to be announced soon).



Chase and Dash Carbonated Beverage Mile Causes Big Buzz



The September 4 twilight sun cut through the trees, illuminating the twelve Garrett Park men who stood behind a pink chalk line on Oxford Street. At their feet, a single word was scrawled on the ground in the handwriting of an 8-year-old: “Start.”

Loving and supportive wives milled about on the sidewalk laughing, wondering aloud how their husbands would fare in the trial that lay ahead. Rory Smith turned to fellow father of two, Steve Welker, and remarked, “I can’t wait to make my kids both proud and confused.” At least a dozen excited children flitted around their fathers’ legs, sipping La Croix sparkling water and asking the men with sincere interest and perhaps even a bit of hope, “Do you think you’ll vomit?”

A fair question and one that would soon be answered, as Erin Reisinger, iPhone timer in hand called out: “On your marks!” Quiet blanketed the scene. “Get set!” Deep breaths all around. “Go!”

But no one ran.

Instead, the pop of twelve cans opening in near unison pierced the Rockwellian silence, as each participant in the inaugural Garrett Park Carbonated Beverage Mile faced down a mighty foe: his first bubbly drink.

The rules for this footrace were loosely based on those established for the first known “beer mile,” held in Canada (naturally) back in August 1989: Drink as quickly as possible a twelve-ounce can of the carbonated beverage of your choice (beer, soda, or seltzer), then run a quarter-mile loop on Oxford. Repeat four times. And, whatever you do, do not vomit—unless you want to run an extra quarter-mile loop.

Pat Maloney downed a Guinness Blonde in eight seconds flat and tore off the starting line, setting a blistering pace for the first 150 meters of the 1,609-meter run. “I’m a go hard early kind of guy,” Pat said after finishing second to last in the race. “I get that photo of me in the front, and then I’m good. This one is going on the mantel for sure.”

The rest of the field followed soon thereafter. Many of the neighborhood children ran along with the participants, laughing and cheering. As Welker observed, “It was kind of like the run-through-Philly scene in *Rocky*, except with out-of-shape dads leading the way, teaching their children important lessons about perseverance and questionable judgment.”

While most made it through their first beverage and quarter mile rather quickly, each successive stop grew longer, as bellies swelled from the carbonation and belches replaced coherent dialogue. As Bill Cone would later note, doing his best Ron Burgundy impression: “Seltzer was a bad choice.”

Even so, all twelve men who popped cans survived the ordeal. Tom DiChiara broke the metaphorical tape first in a time of 7 minutes and 20 seconds, with Smith and Cone notching second and third to complete the podium. All runners finished in less than 16 minutes, and—to the chagrin of many children present—no one needed to run an extra quarter-mile loop.

As the runners/drinkers recovered on the Oxford Street sidewalk, a Whoville-esque murmur arose from among the children, coming in low and then starting to grow: “We want a juice mile! We want a juice mile!”

So, fellow citizens, mark your calendar for next Labor Day weekend’s Second Annual Chase and Dash Carbonated Beverage... and Juice Mile.

List of Participants

Aaron Brand	Pat Maloney
Bill Cone	Cassidy Mullen
Tom DiChiara	Prakash Rath
Hamilton Fout	Mike Schrader
Jon Goldsmith	Rory Smith
Mike Lepore	Steve Welker

Letter to the Editor

Observations of a Budget Dweeb

Based on my past reporting on Garrett Park budgets, several residents (but not a lot!) have asked me if the accuracy of the Town’s estimates improved in fiscal year (FY) 2021. The simple answer is “no.” Rather, the budget error has grown significantly in recent years. Whereas the error was \$158 thousand in FY2017, it tripled to \$480 thousand by FY2021 according to the most recent Town estimates. This is on an operating budget of \$1.3 million. FY2021 operating expenses were estimated too high by 13% and, more troubling, revenues were estimated too low by 24%.

The Town’s final estimates (termed the mid-year budget) are finalized two-thirds through the fiscal year, when the contours of the budget should be apparent.

Why is this important? Budget accuracy is essential in order for the Town to plan properly for future budget initiatives, such as the renovation of Town Hall. If the estimates are too pessimistic, the Town will not know that it has sufficient funds for the renovation.

For FY2022, the timetable for preparation of the mid-year budget has been moved earlier in the year. I applaud that decision. I am hopeful that more time and attention will be devoted to preparation of the estimates and that adjustments will be made to improve their accuracy.

Ken Schwartz

Reminders

**LARGE ITEM
PICKUPS FOR
2022: Saturdays
January 8
April 2
June 25
October 1**

CALLING ALL: Leaf Rakers, Babysitters, Dog Walkers, Cat Sitters, etc.!

Please email (adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov) or call (301-933-7488) Elizabeth in the town office to give details such as age, contact information, category of help, availability.

Thanks!
Elizabeth

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