

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 55

February 2008

No. 2



Calendar

Sat., Jan. 26	Coffeehouse, Town Hall; Monthly Farmer's Market, Penn Place, 9 am-1 pm	Tues., Feb. 12	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Feb. 2	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am-1 pm	Wed., Feb. 13	Garrett Park Climate Action Network, 10706 Kenilworth, 8 pm (see p 5)
Mon., Feb. 4	Monthly yard waste collection	Fri., Feb. 15	Film Society, Town Hall, <i>Avenue Montaigne</i> , film at 8 pm (see p 3)
Thurs., Feb. 7	Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Feb. 21	Jam Session, Town Hall, 7 pm
Sat., Feb. 9	Father/Daughter Dance, GPES, 7-9 pm (see p 2)	Wed., Feb. 27	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; nursery school building (see p 3)
Mon., Feb. 11	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm		

Business as Unusual

The January Town Council meeting was all business. Its discourse was serious and utterly civil. Really. No kidding.

Dominating the evening—for better than an hour—the Council held a hearing concerning two variance requests for a property on Waverly Avenue, one request to build an addition, the other to construct a garage. The owners of the house in question (THIQ, let's call it) have a setback problem. THIQ is a historic property that sits on a corner lot. The neighboring house, which is presumed, numerous years ago, to have been a carriage house belonging to THIQ, is a long way from the street. The corner and the carriage house are difficult to reconcile with the town's setback ordinance, which requires that both be considered when determining how far a new structure must be from the curb. And that means the

owners can't find a way to legally put their proposed addition onto THIQ. It's a little like playing a game of tic-tac-toe where you're not able to use all the squares. So THIQ's owners asked the town for a variance.

Unfortunately, the ordinance is rather specifically worded, and THIQ doesn't qualify. The town is trying to help, though. The Setback Advisory Committee and the guru of all things setback, Harry Gordon, suggested a small change in wording of the ordinance, in the interest of not only this house but a few others in town with similar predicaments. That meant postponing the variance request, so that an ordinance change can be proposed at the February Council meeting and voted on in March. Meanwhile, the variance requested to build a separate garage was denied. The Historic Preservation Committee voiced

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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concerns that a structure of the size and placement proposed would affect the townscape, when viewed from neighboring houses or the street, and there were no grounds for the Council to grant a variance.

At this point, given the intricacy of the discussion—which featured an architect, posters, aerial photographs, mathematical calculations, and a lot of technical talk—one could have understood if the Council had decided *en masse* to go home sick, complaining of a spontaneous ice cream headache. But they pressed on.

The Council briskly considered, and unanimously passed, a resolution urging Montgomery County (via its Department of Parks) to disavow itself of a staff report last summer that suggested the possibility of transferring to Montgomery County Public Schools the Garrett Park Estates Recreation Center, which houses the Garrett Park Nursery School. Some testing still needs to occur, to make sure the building is sound, but it's pretty clear that nursery school parents would prefer their building not become a parking lot.

Finally, it's planning time, and the Council heard from several town committees about what they've accomplished and what they hope can be appropriated to them for the 2009 fiscal year. The Parks and Open Spaces Committee would like to add lights to the basketball courts by Penn Place and spruce up playground equipment in Cambria Park. They're looking for \$12,000, give or take, depending on the cost of said lights and electrical work. The Historic Preservation Committee wants to focus on public education, including completion of a walking tour and accompanying brochure. They're looking for \$1,000. The Arboretum Committee wants to move forward with its list of prunings, removals, and plantings. They're looking for \$26,800. The Setback Advisory Committee didn't present any dollar request. They get paid by the foot.

Richard Folkers

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The map shows a street grid. On the left, Strathmore Ave. runs vertically. To its right is Tuckerman Lane, also vertical. Further right is Rockville Pike, which runs horizontally. At the top of Rockville Pike is the Grosvenor Metro station. Below the station, Rockville Pike continues. A small square labeled '10401' is located on Rockville Pike, between Tuckerman Lane and Grosvenor Place. A small circle with an arrow points to this square, labeled 'Market'. Grosvenor Place runs horizontally at the bottom of the map.

Art at Penn Place

Our current exhibition, which opened on January 13, features striking photographs of wild plants by Andrea Ottesen, a student working towards her PhD in botany at the University of Maryland. The remarkable photographs, taken with a "point and shoot" digital camera, were printed by the artist on archival paper after computer manipulation. Fiddlehead ferns, bloodroot, jack-in-the-pulpit, sweetgum leaves in fall color, wheat, and barley are the subjects of this series of images. Members of the Garden Club will be particularly interested in the "ABC wildflower alphabet."

Ms. Ottesen's PhD thesis deals with the interactions of plants with their environment. Her recent tie for first place in the National Science Foundation's Visualization Challenge, with an image of seaweed (*Chondrus crispus*) collected in Nova Scotia, marks her first public recognition for her interesting combination of art and science (September 28 cover of *Science*).

GPES

Over Winter Break, Garrett Park Elementary was hit with some vandalism. Besides a container with a firework inside (which could have exploded) and youngsters found up on the roof, some students entered the building and ran their skateboards over the newly painted floor, which left many paint marks that had to be removed. Please keep an eye out for anything unwelcome being done at the school and let the authorities know. Then make sure Principal Chang-Baxter hears of the event.

On another front, the GPES Foundation is sponsoring a Father/Daughter Sweetheart Dance on February 9, from 7 to 9 pm, in the multi-purpose room. All fathers, stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, or any special friends are invited to attend along with the "daughter." Cost is \$20 per couple (extra daughters are free), and you can send your check to the GPES Education Foundation, Box 131, Garrett Park, MD 20896. You are also asked to bring a dessert to share.

Mary Moyer

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Citizens Association News

The next Citizens Association meeting will take place at 8 pm on February 27, in the Town Hall. On the agenda is a discussion about the status of the nursery school building. Also, we hope to have Tim Derstine, who runs the Saturday Farmer's Market at Penn Place, give a presentation/slideshow about a trip to China that he made to share information with Chinese farmers.

Town Dinner a Success

The Garrett Park Citizens Association Town Dinner was held at Town Hall on the evening of January 12. The theme was "the 70s," and people dug deep into their closets for some retro outfits (or costumes). Needless to say, it wasn't pretty. Elvis and Shaft were seen mingling in the crowd, as was a reporter for the *Gazette*, who captured them on camera. Jay Levy, a long-time Garrett Park resident and proud survivor of the 70s scene, kicked off the event with a little piano. As usual, fun (and sometimes racy) stories were told, lots of wine was consumed, and lots of fun was had by all.

Matt Stavish thanked outgoing Association officers Melissa Bronez and Jennifer Krivanek. The new slate of officers was elected as follows:

Matt Stavish, President
Chris Strong, Co-President
Cathy Rinzel, Vice President
Pam Morgan, Treasurer
Lara Hines, Secretary

The Citizens Association would like to thank everyone who attended and to extend a special thanks to all who helped clean up afterwards. Another wonderful GP tradition continues...

Valentine's Film

Bonjour, mesdames et messieurs! What can be more romantique than a comédie française? The charming Cécile de France sizzles as a waitress with a dream in *Avenue Montaigne*, at the Garrett Park Film Society's belated Valentine's Day film, on Friday night, February 15, at 8 pm. This 2007 subtitled French romantic comedy takes place on a fashionable Paris street, where de France has just moved. The fun is watching the interplay between her wide-eyed self and those around her: the art collector and his son; the pianist and his wife; the soap opera star and her director. Jessica's love of life captures the heart of just about everyone she comes into contact with. *Avenue Montaigne* features unique, interesting characters, excellent acting, and a lot of fun and fascinating talk about art, music, theater, food, and other cultural delights—just like everyone you'll see at the event itself. And the food! Mon dieu! Le menu hasn't been finalized, but is bound to be fantas-tique, naturellement. Food is available at typically reasonable prices beginning at 7:15 pm, with the film at 8. The film is free for members, or else \$5 for one person and \$10 for families.

Town Administrator Notes

Leaf collection has finished for the year. Chances are you may have a few leaves left over. You can either pile them up in a corner of your yard for composting, or bag them for the yard waste pickup the first Monday in February (Feb. 4). If you missed the scheduled Christmas tree pickup, just put your tree out and we will take it away.

So far we have avoided much snow. This is very good for our budget, but unlikely to last. So please remember that it is especially important to try to park off the streets when snow is expected so that we can clear the streets curb to curb whenever possible. This will allow for more space to park after the streets are plowed.

I'd like to thank the many residents who generously gave tips to the Montgomery County Sanitation employees who take away our trash, recyclables, and yard waste. A fine year-end gift was made to each of the four men, and letters of acknowledgement will be sent out to all who gave before the end of January.

Work is beginning on the budget for fiscal year 2009. If you have questions or would like more information, please call the office. If you have suggestions for next year's budget, you should contact members of the Town Council or the Mayor.

Best wishes for the New Year from all of us who work for you as town employees—we enjoy working for you and do our best to provide you with as high a level of service as is possible. Suggestions as to how we may do this better are always welcome!

Finally, in these winter months it is often hard for some of the town's residents to get out. Please try to be particularly alert for a friend or neighbor who might need a little extra support this time of year. If there is any way you feel that we here at the office might be able to help out, please call or drop by.

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Preservation and Reuse

The January/February issue of *Preservation*, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), has a couple of interesting articles about how preserving old homes saves large amounts of energy (available at www.nationaltrust.org/Magazine/current/). An article by Wayne Curtis and an interview with NTHP president Richard Moe emphasize that the "greenest building is the one that is already built." The energy costs of new construction typically far outweigh the energy saving of replacing old "drafty" structures with new ones—no matter how energy efficient the new buildings are. Preserving old buildings and re-using old materials during renovations not only helps preserve the historic character of a neighborhood, but saves energy and helps preserve the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. The practice of demolishing older homes and replacing them with new structures has environmental ramifications that reach far beyond the local impact on the historic character of our community.

Kevin O. Pope

More GP Open Space Preserved

A generous and far-sighted gift by the Wilpers family has preserved the open space on either side of their Kenilworth Avenue home, to remain open forever. This was accomplished through a conservation easement that restricts future development to a limited area at the rear of the existing house. The easement, given to the Garrett Park Conservation Trust, also restricts the amount of nonpermeable surface (driveways, sidewalks, etc.) and places restrictions on removal of trees greater than eight inches in diameter.

This is the second Garrett Park conservation easement placed with the Trust. Anyone interested in information about preserving open space on their property can send an e-mail to gpctrust@comcast.net or contact Ken Ingham or any of the board members listed on our Web site, www.gpctrust.net. Tax-deductible contributions and bequests are also welcome.

Ken Ingham

Cub Scouts Collect Used Books

Cub Scout Pack 521, based in Garrett Park, is collecting used books for "The Book Project" of the World Bank. Since October, the scouts have collected and delivered about 600 books, which the World Bank ships to libraries and schools around the world. The children have scheduled a house to house collection similar to the familiar "Scouting for Food" drives. They plan to pick up contributions on February 9. There will also be a drop box in the Post Office that the scouts will collect from.

Some guidelines for donations:

Textbooks for children K–12 (kindergarten to 12th grade) or ages 4–18, *with the following exceptions*: Books more than 10 years old, books about U.S. government/history, politics, and religion

Crafts and vocational books, simple or beginner level

Reference books, dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias (not older than 15 years), maps, charts, National Geographic books

Picture books, stories, magazines (e.g., National Geographic & Discover), literature, for K–12

Literature and readers for K–12 and college. Also novels, detective stories, etc., suitable for community libraries used by people practicing learned English

Health, first aid, general health and nutrition, AIDS

ESL: Grammar, reading and writing, fiction

Teacher education: Elementary through secondary, ESL

French & Spanish literature and textbooks for native speakers only

Please do not include the following:

Trade publications and journals

Adult fiction containing a high level of violence and sexually explicit details

For further information about The Book Project, see the site go.worldbank.org/AJY6WOWPX0, contact The Book Project at 202-473-8960, or e-mail bookprojectwbfm@worldbank.org.

We're Still Green!

The Lichtenstein family donated the money for this month's banner in honor of matriarch Sylvia Lichtenstein, who passed away in October 2006. We thank them for the green.

If anyone would be interested in donating for future issues, we are starting to collect for the 2008/2009 printing year. Just send a check for \$37 (made out to the Citizens Association) to Box 98, Garrett Park, and we will see that you get on the list. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

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Arboretum News

The Arboretum Committee, led by Co-Chairs Matthew Nau and Chris Keller, met on January 10 to discuss the upcoming year. The topics included pruning, removal, and planting of town trees.

In the fall before the leaves dropped, each member of the Arboretum Committee canvassed the neighborhood to identify deadwood and overgrowth around streetlights and utility lines. At the same time, we tried to locate unhealthy trees and open spaces for spring planting in the right-of-way.

Phil Normandy, our town arborist, assists us in all these endeavors. There have been a number of town residents who have seen Phil perched in precarious positions this winter in our trees with his trusty Japanese pruning saw and have been tempted to poke and prod him. Please do not do this (unless it's with chocolates). Seriously though, Phil uses the winter months to do his structural and formative pruning of our younger, more recently planted town trees. This type of work takes years of experience and knowledge and ensures the town a beautiful and healthy canopy years down the road.

Phil also spends the winter months researching and locating new cultivars (varieties) and healthy specimens for spring planting. We hope to plant as many as 25 trees this spring. Phil, along with horticulturalist and town resident Els Benjamin, should have concluded research related to these plantings on or before March 1; then information packets will go out to those residents who will have a tree planted in the right-of-way in front of their home. These packets will include

the name of the cultivar or species of each tree and cultural and descriptive information.

Winter is also the time the town embarks on its tree removal (it's cheaper in the winter) so *please be considerate* of our commercial arborist crews. Because of our tight streets, the cones they place often don't provide enough margin of safety, so always drive slowly. Trees are marked for removal if they are dead, dying, or hazardous, and all are approved by staff from Maryland Department of Natural Resources before removal.

Arboretum Committee members have noted that many kids and teenagers today do not get enough outdoor activity and exercise. If you know of such a person (no age limit here) mark down Sunday, April 20, for Weed Warrior Day in Porcupine Woods. This event has been led by master gardener and town resident Kay Hager for the last two decades, but will now be hosted by Arboretum Committee member Fredrika Moser. This is a fun and informative community event that will help remove invasive plant species such as ivy and honeysuckle from our woods. (This event also counts towards community service hours!)

Tree in Focus: American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*). This tree is known for its sinewy, slate gray smooth bark. Michael Dirr says the appearance is comparable to flexed biceps and forearm muscles. This native to American woodlands does best in a *moist, shady* naturalized landscape. The winter is a good time to appreciate the town's specimen at the Clermont entrance to Porcupine Woods. This is also a good place to observe Phil Normandy's pruning handiwork.

GP Climate Action Network

GP-CAN is a group of citizens concerned about climate change and determined to do something about it on an individual basis in our homes and our community. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13, at 8 pm at the home of Karen Anderson and Bob Reinhardt, 10706 Kenilworth Avenue (on the right, third house from the end on the Parkside end of Kenilworth). GP-CAN is planning an Earth Day event on Saturday, April 26, focused on individual actions to combat climate change. Anyone interested in helping with this event is encouraged to join us at the next meeting. For more information, call Janet Wegner.

Paper, Paper Everywhere...

GP-CAN suggests that you can start the New Year off right by further reducing your carbon footprint in a very easy way—cut out some of those catalogues that pile up in your mailbox and on your kitchen table. With our busy lives, many of us depended on mail order over the holidays, but we have probably gotten on more lists than we'd like to think about. Even though it's easy to recycle catalogues in our town, it would be even better not to receive those we don't use at all!

Fortunately, word is getting around about a free Web service, www.catalogchoice.org. It is a nonprofit, with no ads, funded by several foundations. Sponsored by the Ecology Center, it has been endorsed by the National Wildlife Federation and the National Resources Defense Council.

All you have to do is go to the site, give them your e-mail (see their privacy policies) and mailing address, and scroll through their extensive list of catalogues, clicking "decline" against the ones that you no longer wish to receive. (I am embarrassed to tell you I clicked on over 30!) The site says that it takes about 10 weeks to process your requests, and there is a way to let them know if you are still getting the catalogues after that time.

The whole process took about 20 minutes, far faster than if I had tried to contact each company directly. Please consider it—I'm sure our wonderful Post Office staff would appreciate it, too!

GP-CAN wishes all of you a green New Year; if you have any comments or suggestions for the committee, feel free to contact me.

Lisa Kaeser

Letter from the Mayor

All the town's committees appeared at the January Council meeting to report on their activities in 2007 and to make their requests for the FY09 budget. I wished that more people had been present to hear how much committee volunteers contribute to our town. It was most impressive.

Another snow event, and once again our maintenance staff did an excellent job clearing the streets. We are most fortunate to have Butch, Frank, and Jose.

The General Assembly is in session again. I have been appointed to the Maryland Municipal

League's Legislative Committee, so I will be in Annapolis quite a bit in the coming weeks.

Unfortunately we had a seven hour power outage just before the holidays. Many people reported that neighbors called and said, "Want to come over and sit in the dark with us?"

If you live near someone you think might need some extra help in a similar situation, please check on your neighbors.

Carolyn Shawaker

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Philip Moyer had a liver transplant at Johns Hopkins Hospital on December 28 after waiting on the transplant list for 5 years. He was flown by helicopter from Georgetown University Hospital in order to have the operation. He then had to have two follow-up operations to fix his faulty plumbing so that the new liver would receive enough blood to continue working. He is home and doing fine, although his mother is a basket case.
- ♪ We were sad to hear of the death of Bob Masucci on January 2. He leaves behind his wife of 37 years, Rose, and children Cynthia Kratz, Elaine Martin, Loretta Bonner, and Robert Masucci, as well as 14 grandchildren. The funeral was held January 5 at Holy Cross Church, and burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Memorials may be given in his name to Holy Cross Church, or to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, 10920 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 1600, Kensington, MD 20895-1600.
- ♪ The Women's Club Silent Auction held from December 7 through December 15 in the Town Hall raised \$400 for the Betsy White Emer-

gency Fund. Thanks to all who donated seasonal decorations and to all who purchased them!

- ♪ We were sorry to hear that Jane Franklin suffered a fall that landed her in the Washington Rehabilitation Center, but we were happy to hear that she is back in her new digs in Adamstown and on the mend.

Don't you wish you could stop time?

We Can!

Les Henig

PHOTOGRAPHY

301-933-5762



www.LesHenig.com