

# The Echo

The Town of  
**GLEEN ECHO, MARYLAND**  
Chartered, 1904



---

July 2009

## Council Approves Street Repair Bid at Supplemental Meeting

By David Chitwood

At a special continuation of the June 8 Town Council meeting on June 22, the Mayor and Town Council selected Ross Contracting, Inc., to renovate the town's streets. During the interim, several questions had been addressed to the Council's satisfaction.

Mayor Debbie Beers began the discussion by stating she saw nothing to disqualify the low bidder from being awarded the project. She pointed out the savings would pay for a full-time inspector to provide close supervision.

The other councilmembers concurred that this proposal was very attractive, based upon cost and the quality of previous work done for Montgomery County. The winning bid was for \$349,944.

Councilmember Nancy Long expressed her concern about tree root damage during the road repairs, a matter ignored in all of the proposals. She suggested the professional arborist scheduled to examine some trees in the town be asked to walk thorough the entire town to look for trees that could be damaged during the paving project.

Although Councilmember Dan Macy agreed this would be a worthwhile idea, Mayor Beers noted many of the trees in question are the property of homeowners, not the town.

See *STREET REPAIR BID APPROVED*, page 5

### Move Your Vehicles: Street Paving Begins

The long-awaited street repair project will begin, possibly as early as July. The exact date is dependent upon the contractor's schedule.

All town streets will be milled and resurfaced during this process; consequently, residents will be asked to find off-street parking during milling, paving and other intensive operations. Alternative parking arrangements for those residents without off-street parking will be announced.

Because many take summer vacations, an effort will be to provide ample notice before activities begin.

# THE ECHO

Published unofficially by, for and in the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of *The Echo* are on file at Little Falls Library. Also provided online at [www.glenecho.org](http://www.glenecho.org). Total circulation: 190. Distributed the first weekend of the month.

**EDITOR** Kathleen Kotcher 301-229-4294  
Email: [TheEchoEditor@gmail.com](mailto:TheEchoEditor@gmail.com)

**ASST. EDITOR** Diana Hudson-Taylor

**REPORTERS** David Chitwood  
Norman Hudson-Taylor

**DISTRIBUTION** Brockie and Jane Stevenson  
Lili Bayer  
Maire Hewitt  
Sally Law  
Raya Bodnarchuk

**CIRCULATION** Susan Grigsby

**EDITOR EMERITA** Carlotta Anderson

**Next Deadline:** Friday, July 24

**Printed by:** Allied Printing, Bethesda

Letters to the Editor are welcomed. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Any comments about *The Echo* may be addressed to the Editor, the Mayor or any councilmember. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the Editor at 301-229-4294 or 202-409-5146.

♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

## Theft From Autos Increasing

At the June 8, 2009, meeting of the Montgomery County Police Community Advisory meeting it was noted thefts from vehicles continues to be a problem, however, 73% of the vehicles were not locked.

Commander Hamill asked citizens please report break-ins to their vehicles, even if nothing is taken. In the first five months of this year auto thefts are down 29%, aggravated assaults showed no increase, residential burglary is down 25%, commercial burglary is down 35%, and thefts from autos is up 25%.

There will be no meetings for July and August but if you have any concerns contact Commander Hamill at 301-652-9200.

By Norman Hudson-Taylor

### TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND 20812

**Town Office Phone: 301-320-4041**

**Town Office Fax: 301-320-3639**

**Office: 6106 Harvard Ave.**

**Town Mailing Address:**

**P.O. Box 598, Glen Echo, MD 20812**

**Office Hours: Monday, 12:00-2:00 and Thursday  
12:30-3:00 or by appointment**

#### MAYOR

**Debbie Beers 301-229-7308**

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Eve Arber 301-263-0016**

**Nancy Long 301-332-3823**

**Dan Macy 301-229-2122**

**Steve Matney 301-320-2059**

#### CLERK-TREASURER

**Cathie Polak 301-320-4041**

#### TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

## LAW & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Wealth Management  
& Financial Planning

(301) 229-8500

Heather Cottage  
6911 Tulane Avenue  
Glen Echo, Maryland 20812-1205  
[www.lawandassociates.com](http://www.lawandassociates.com)

## Glen Echo Park Notes

### Planned Bike Path Rerouting Through Park

At the June 8th Town Council Meeting, Polly Angelakis, Site Manager for Glen Echo Park, described the latest developments about plans to reroute the MacArthur Boulevard bike path through Glen Echo Park.

This alteration of the existing path would bypass the dangerous intersection at MacArthur Boulevard and Goldsboro Road by using the old trolley trestle over Minnehaha Creek, thereby minimizing encounters between bicycles and motor vehicles.

Perhaps the major impediment in utilizing the trestle is the necessity for a relatively steep grade involving S-curves in order to descend from and ascend to street level. The originally planned grade exceeded limits mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but the modified plan is ADA compliant. Councilmember Dan Macy pointed out that even an ADA-compliant grade may be too steep for children using bikes with training wheels.

Angelakis also stated that the Park has provided Montgomery County with 40 comments about the proposed rerouting. The Park does not perceive the necessity for a full-fledged environmental impact study, although an environmental assessment will be necessary. In response to a question from Councilmember Nancy Long, Ms. Angelakis responded concerns about threatened species were centered on plants, not animals.

Councilmember Steve Matney pointed out that the proposed rerouting would destroy the existing Ride-On bus stop. Ms. Angelakis indicated she would look into this situation.

### Recent Park Events Successful

Over 12,000 people attended the Washington Folk Festival, and no serious medical issues arose. She asked the Town Council about whether the barricades restricting traffic entry into the Town should remain in place next year.

The consensus was this would be a good idea provided the entrances were widened Saturday evening, as the narrow entrances would be difficult to see at night.

Ms. Angelakis also commented that the May 16 park gala was well attended and that "It was great to be there when Nancy was honored."

She added the glass fusion artists were really eager to see their creation presented to Councilmember Long (*SEE STORY ON PAGE 8*).

### Rescue Jungle

Ms. Angelakis informed the town that a new piece of equipment, the "Rescue Jungle", will soon be added to the existing playground at the Park.

The name of the equipment unites themes from the Park's two areas—Clara Barton's efforts led to the rescue of innumerable individuals, and the Park once had a "Jungle Land" ride.

Mayor Beers pointed out the Town has not yet received the promised response from the Park's lawyers about the Oxford Road ownership issue. Ms. Angelakis indicated she would take care of it.

By David Chitwood



**Cheese, imported and domestic ▼**  
**▼ Organically-grown produce**  
**Nuts, dried fruit, grains & beans sold in bulk ▼**  
**▼ Health & bodycare, cruelty-free**

Serving the community since 1975.  
**Bethesda Co-op**

301-320-2530 6500 Seven Locks Rd., at MacArthur Blvd. Mon.-Sat. 9-9, Sun. 9-7

## Street Repair Bids Reviewed, Second Council Meeting Scheduled

By David Chitwood

At the June 8th meeting, Council began the lengthy process of evaluating the many bids received by engineering consultant A. Morton Thomas.

This process began after a dialogue between Mayor Debbie Beers and Councilmember Steve Matney about the latter's belief that the discussion should be held behind closed doors.

Because of his extensive knowledge of federal procurement regulations, Matney was concerned about cost estimates and other confidential information falling into the hands of competitors. Mayor Beers stated the Town was not obligated to follow federal purchasing regulations.

Councilmember Dan Macy added the awarded bid amount would be made public at the end of the process. Therefore, a consensus was reached the bid evaluation process would proceed at tonight's open council meeting.

There was also discussion about whether the Town was required to select the lowest bidder. Mayor Beers and Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak quickly retrieved the Town Ordinances, which clearly state the Town must consider the quality of the submitted proposals when evaluating bids, and contracts should be awarded to the "lowest or best bid."

Ninety minutes later, a decision had not yet been reached. Several then unanswerable questions were raised, and answers were needed before a contractor could be selected.

Therefore, the Council decided to ask a few questions of some of the firms via Robert Harrison, Director of Construction Services with A. Morton Thomas, and to visit a few local street paving projects to examine the quality of work personally, and to meet again on June 22 in order to make a decision.

Here are some specific highlights of the discussion.

The submitted bids ranged widely in cost estimates. Interestingly, several of the firms proposed subcontracting the paving operation to the same popular local company. Mr. Harrison checked the arithmetic and related matters in the proposals, noticing one grossly misplaced decimal point and a 20-cent error in addition.

Mayor Beers flatly stated the large difference between the lower and the higher bids represented a substantial amount of money to a small town like Glen Echo, so the lower bids should be considered very seriously.

Fortunately, the timing of the Town's request for bids was excellent, as asphalt prices had declined from \$850 per ton to \$300 per ton, according to Mr. Harrison.

Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak pointed out project management is a very important issue in Glen Echo, as none of the local officials are experienced in road repair operations. Mr. Harrison added someone is obviously needed on site, in order to quickly make decisions about matters that appear on a daily basis.

The Mayor added she found the lower bidders very attractive because some of the savings could be used to hire an inspector to ensure a first-rate job is being performed.

Mayor Beers commented the drainage improvements in the Town and along MacArthur Boulevard appear to be working well, as the Town received no complaints about water drainage during the recent torrential rains.

Nonetheless, some drainage issues remain, such as along Oxford Road or at a few street intersections. Mr. Harrison indicated milling and other parts of the contract will address these drainage issues to some degree, such as by installing slight crowns or grades or, in the case of Oxford Road, drainage pipes underneath.

Although the Town had proposed elevated pedestrian crosswalks as one means of slowing traffic, Mr. Harrison commented these serve as water dams, unlike speed bumps which do not extend all of the way to curbs.

Mr. Harrison also added some remedial patching work would be done near MacArthur Boulevard, such as near the entrance to the Irish Inn.

The Council and Mr. Harrison discussed town access problems associated with the MacArthur Boulevard load restrictions. Because asphalt trucks carry 20-ton loads, access will be restricted to the regular truck entrance at Oxford Road.

It was envisioned the natural order of paving would be to start at areas distant from this point. There was some concern about access of heavy equipment to Bowdoin Avenue but Mayor Beers pointed out the National Park Service had brought in heavy equipment near there.

Mayor Beers pointed out to Mr. Harrison people will need to be informed at least a week in advance about the start of the paving process, so vehicles can be moved off the street.

### Street Repair Bid Approved

*Continued from Front Page*

These trees would be the town's business only if their roots are impacting sidewalks, as the town could be liable for injuries occurring if anyone tripped on a buckled sidewalk. She also pointed out an inspection of all of the streets by the arborist could be expensive.

Councilmember Long responded the town should be concerned about damage to privately owned tree roots during a town-sponsored project. Councilmember Matney pointed out the milling process will not be deep in most places, and the only places of concern would be where streets are visibly buckling because of tree roots underneath.

Eventually, the Council instructed Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak to collect a list of all trees of concern from the Council. She will then instruct the visiting arborist to evaluate the possible impact of the street repair project upon such trees.

There was also discussion about the logistics of the operation. Mayor Beers stated the situation should not be worse than the last major street project (the slurry seal), when cars were removed from the streets for two days, and the vehicle of a vacationing town resident had to be towed. She added

the milling process should require 5-6 days, like the paving process. It is expected the project manager will work closely with the town to inform residents of when their specific streets will be milled or paved.

The discussion ended with a motion passing to award the contract to the lowest bidder.

Although not in the proposal specifically, resurfacing of the Town Hall parking lot and repair of selected sidewalks may be added.

### Auto Break-Ins Continue

Mayor Debbie Beers reported several automobiles had been broken into in recent weeks. The items stolen have included a radar detector and currency. In addition, one homeowner suffered the loss of a bicycle from his property.

One town resident has asked Mayor Beers to write a letter to request additional police presence in the town. The Mayor commented her telephone call to the County about additional police inspections was handled by someone with a somewhat dismissive attitude. She agreed to write a letter, in the hope it will be more effective.

Mayor Beers reminds all victims of thefts to report the incident to the police, so the request of the town for additional police protection is taken seriously.

### Motorized Boats Coming to a Canal near You?

Councilmember Long distributed a four-page announcement of a C & O Canal "Alternative Transportation Study Workshop" to occur on June 24 and 25. The stated purpose of the workshop was to "examine the feasibility of alternative transportation systems within the lower 23 miles" of the Park. The purposes of the improvements are "to enhance visitor access to and distribution within the Park and provide for interpretation of the Park."

Councilmember Long commented the source of funding for this workshop—federal highway funds—could minimize the attention given to the historical aspects of the Park during the workshop. She added she planned to attend as a private citizen. Although the Mayor and Council expressed support for the proposed full re-watering of the Canal from Seneca to Georgetown, the proposed use of motorized boats on the Canal was greeted with concern.

In response to Clerk-Treasurer Polak's comment about the possibility of jet skis in the Canal, Councilmember Matney noted such use would violate Maryland state regulations about operation close to shore.



**HUGHES**  
**LANDSCAPING & SUPPLY**  
 Design/Installation/Stone Walls/Patios/Built-In Grills  
 Commercial & Residential Maintenance

**John Hughes**

16111 MORROW ROAD, POOLESVILLE, MD 20837  
 (301) 330-4949 OFFICE / (301) 977-4949 FAX  
 E-MAIL: JHUGHES@HUGHESLANDSCAPING.COM

**Cabin John Organizing**  
 Melanie Patt-Corner  
 301-263-9482  
 www.cabinjohnorganizing.com

*"Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful." William Morris*

# AROUND TOWN

Word Dance Theater, under the direction of University Avenue resident **Cynthia Word**, presents "Revolutionary! Isadora Duncan" at the Capital Fringe Festival.

Witness this stunning dance/theater production of her life story told through brilliant, authentic reconstructions of her most famous dances.

Performed by actress Sarah Pleydell and dancers Valerie Durham, Cynthia Word, and Ingrid Zimmer.

"Revolutionary! Isadora Duncan" will be performed five times during the festival at The Mountain at Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church in NW DC.

Tickets go on sale June 22 at [www.capitalfringe.org](http://www.capitalfringe.org) or 1-866-811-4111.



**Laura Beers**, daughter of Debbie and Don Beers of 29 Wellesley Circle, was interviewed on BBC radio's "Westminster Hour" on Sunday, June 14, 2009.

Laura spoke about the relationship between the Labor Party and the media during the inter-war years, which is the subject of her book "Selling Socialism," that will be published by Harvard University Press in 2010.

### Join the Glen Echo Group on Yahoo!

Just a reminder to keep your email address updated and how to post to the group.

Below are the email addresses to use for the group.

If you want to **Post** message to the Glen Echo Group: [GlenEcho@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GlenEcho@yahoogroups.com)

If you want to **Subscribe** to the Glen Echo Group: [GlenEcho-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GlenEcho-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

If you want to **Unsubscribe** to the Glen Echo Group: [GlenEcho-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GlenEcho-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

The Glen Echo Group is closed so that only residents of Glen Echo can be members. By keeping the group closed we protect our members from getting spam emails. We encourage all of you to send emails about what's going on in town.

If you have any questions please send an email to [dan@macy.net](mailto:dan@macy.net).

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 13, 8 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the clerk-treasurer to add an item to the agenda

## LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night*

*at*

*Jane Stevenson's*

*6106 Yale Avenue*

*Wednesday, July 15, 8:00 p.m.*

*Please RSVP 301-229-3578*



## Glen Echo Baptist Church

*Serving Glen Echo families since 1939*

*Dr. Ed Curtis, Th.D., Pastor*

### Bringing God's Truth to Life

Sunday School . . . . . 9:30 am

Sunday Services . . . . . 11:00 am

Wednesday Activities . . . . . 7:00 pm

Mid-Week Bible Study . . . Vassar Circle

**PROPERTIES AVAILABLE**

**FOR SALE**

7310 Columbia Avenue \$1,250,000

**FOR RENT**

21 Wellesley Circle \$2,500/mo.

**SOLD**

7306 University Avenue \$853,500

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

May 2009

A.Morton Thomas (street project)	\$4,780.00
Chapel Valley (landscaping)	\$1,198.40
ResCom Elevators (annual contract)	\$850.00

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**Small family daycare in Cabin John** near the Bethesda Co-op has full-time and part-time openings. Licensed by Maryland State Department of Education since January 1991, CPR and First Aid certified. References available. Interested please call Siew at (301)320-4280

**Unique Opportunity: Your History Recorded.** Your voice as a gift to those that love you. An informal and simple audio recording by a trained interviewer, and a COPY of the recording - ALL FREE. Contact Norman Hudson-Taylor at 301-229-2163 for more information. References upon request.

*Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 50 characters or fewer. Display ads: \$4 per column inch. Ads may be left with or mailed to the editor at 5 Vassar Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.*

**Visit us online!**

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

Flexible, Affordable Live-in Child Care!



- Child care for only \$335 per week per family, not per child.
- An enriching cultural exchange experience for the entire family.
- Year-round support from experienced local counselor, Victoria Paton.

Contact Victoria at 301-613-0887 or apply online today with no registration fee!

[www.aupairinamerica.com](http://www.aupairinamerica.com) • (800) 928-7247



**Digital Handyman, Inc.**

Personal Computer Solutions

**240-447-6535**

On-site computer repair

- Maintenance
- Repair
- Virus/spyware
- Hardware
- Software
- Gadgets



Andy Malmgren  
Personal Technology  
Consultant

**NEED AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE ?**

LOCAL RESIDENT PROVIDES QUALITY WORK DAYS, EVENINGS, WEEKENDS, NO EXTRA CHARGES OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE--ALL MODELS ALL NECESSARY LICENSES AND INSURANCE PLENTY OF REFERENCES

CALL ANYTIME 301-365-2155

SAM OSLER  
7105 GARMON ROAD, BETHESDA, MD

WSSC #20215

MARYLAND HVAC #16047

**SUNOCO**



**KENWOOD SUNOCO CENTER**  
(formerly Kenwood Mobil)

5201 RIVER ROAD  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20816  
PH: (301) 652-9527 • FAX: (301) 652-1138

James Spicer  
OWNER

Dick Spicer  
SERVICE MANAGER

AUTO REPAIR • FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC  
FACTORY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

## COUNCILMEMBER NANCY LONG HONORED AT PARK CELEBRATION

On May 16, 2009, the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) held its annual Gala in the Park. This year's festivities, entitled "Celebracion de Glen Echo Park," was hosted by GEPPAC and the Ambassador of Spain, His Excellency Jorge Dezecaller.

Forty-year Town Council member and long-time park volunteer and advocate, Nancy Long, was honored with an Individual Achievement Award.

In her introductory remarks, Peggy O'Dell, Director of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, related how in 1969 the Dentzel Carousel in Glen Park was slated for sale along with all of the other rides.

O'Dell said Long "envisioned and led the effort to save the iconic carousel" through her recruitment of volunteers who were able to raise \$80,000 to buy the carousel in one month.

The Carousel was then given to the National Park Service, with the understanding it was to remain in the park and be kept open for riders.

Long was also recognized for both her work curating the Park's Labor Day Art show, which she has done since its creation in 1971, and for serving as the Montgomery County representative for the C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission.

Mayor Debbie Beers, who was unable to attend the event, was quoted by O'Dell as saying, "As the longest-serving public official in the history of the Town of Glen Echo, Nancy Long is its heart, soul, and institutional memory. Her dedication to the Town and Glen Echo Park continues unabated to this day."

Long shared her table with friends Eve Arber and Ed Hunter, Steve and Andrea Matney, Dan and Constance Macy, Raya Bodnarchuck and cousins Ed and Joyce Charron of Jacksonville, Fla.



*Honorees at the Gala in the Park (from left): Spanish Ambassador Jorge Descallar, Nancy Long, U.S. Representative Chris Van Hollen, Jeff Kirk of Glen Echo Pottery, Marriott International's Chauny Dunbar, and GEPPAC President Margo Reid. Photo by Joyce Charron*

### Town Hall Events

English Country Dances are held every Wednesday from 7 p.m.—11 p.m.



## Summer 2009 at REDEEMER

### ■ Sunday Morning Schedule

The Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
The Holy Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Summer Sunday School	10:30 a.m.

*"O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness..."*  
- Psalm 96:9

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

6201 Dunrobbin Drive • Bethesda, Maryland 20816  
301.229.3770 • [www.redeemerbethesda.org](http://www.redeemerbethesda.org)

The Rev. Susan C. Burns, Rector  
The Rev. Robin K. Gulick, Assistant to the Rector  
The Rev. Dr. David J. Schlafer, Priest Associate  
Thomas P. Smith, Director of Music