



# The Echo

## The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



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March 2010

### Massive snowstorms bury Glen Echo

By Carlotta Anderson

Snowmageddon, as the most massive snowstorms in local history were dubbed by its victims, hit Glen Echo for over a week in mid-February with alarming ferocity. It blanketed the town with over 30 inches of heavy snow, cutting off power for days and trapping residents in their homes. All the houses in Glen Echo and more than 200,000 homes and businesses throughout the area lost electricity for a period.

Mail was not delivered for two days. Only those who could make their way through thigh-high mountains of snow were able to escape their homes, but most local stores, including Glen Echo Pharmacy, the hardware store and 7-11 were closed for several days. Telephones were non-functional for residents and many residents lost their Verizon FIOS connections.

Even after town streets were plowed to the width of one car, it was difficult for residents to access them because the

snowplows had piled mountains of snow to the sides of the roads.

Unexpected icy patches made the attempt to walk anywhere a menace. Driving was a major problem even after a week. Downed trees sprawled across several streets, which stymied plows until resident volunteers chopped them down.

Added to that pleasure was the outpouring of neighborliness and help to the elderly and those needing heat or supplies. It started with a "Stone Soup Party," on Saturday, Feb. 6, open to all, at the Harvard Ave. home of Dia and Matthew Costello, one of the few residents who stored propane so they could use a gas stove.

A few others who had gas or wood stove-generated heat, or a generator, welcomed the "heatless" needy into their homes, while others went to hotels or made their way to the home of friends who still had power. All airports were closed for several days.

see *SNOWSTORMS*, page 6

# THE ECHO

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## AROUND TOWN

**Debi Sacks** presents an exhibit of her paintings at the Marin-Price Galleries, 7022 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, from March 6<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>. The opening reception will be Sat, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**Janette Rockwell** says "Bridge Anyone?" She would like to organize a bridge group. Call her at 301-320-5188 to discuss dates and times

that might be convenient for all.

**Diana Hudson-Taylor's** nephew, Steve Hudson and his Outer Bridge Ensemble will be playing at Blues Alley on March 29 at 8 and 10pm. The original music is steeped in jazz and world music traditions, giving it a soulful and energetic sound with infectious grooves, funky bass lines, and riveting solos. Members of the ensemble have performed with Ray Charles, Sonny Rollins, Hank Jones and Steven Bernstein. Catch their sound at [www.outerbridgeensemble.net](http://www.outerbridgeensemble.net) and then at Blues Alley on March 29th.

### HOME FOR SALE

Home for Sale - 11 Vassar Circle is for sale for \$595,000



*"O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness . . ."*

-Psalm 96:9

#### ■ SUNDAY MORNING

The Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Adult Education Forum	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Church School	10:30 a.m.

#### ■ UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, March 7	5:00 p.m.
<i>Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert (Free-will offering)</i>	
Saturday, March 13	7:30 p.m.
<i>The Countertop Ensemble in Concert (Tickets sold at door)</i>	

For a complete listing of Holy Week & Easter services, please visit the parish website.

### The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

6201 Dunrobbin Drive • Bethesda, MD 20816  
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# The Blizzard of 2010

## Perspectives from Glen Echo residents

While I can't say that I truly enjoyed the blizzards of 2010, they did help put into perspective some important values that I think we all share. The internet and TV did not matter anymore....rather, it was ensuring that family and pets were safe and loved. If ever there was a neighborhood where I would want to experience the blizzards – it would be Glen Echo....where residents found consolation in one another knowing that they were not alone and everyone helped each other. And while the blizzards wreaked havoc on our personal and professional lives for a week or two, our lives eventually returned to normal. It was hardship, but there was a start and an end. I reminded Hannah and Justin that for so many in the world, such as those in Haiti, hardship is a way of life, with seemingly never "an end."

### -Amy Niles

We were enjoying the celebration of Matt Polak's 30th birthday when the power in Glen Echo went out Friday night. Being pioneers, we lit up our wood burning stove and awaited its return. On Saturday morning our son Neil, his fiancé, and their 2 Austrian Sheppard's arrived with boxes full of wood and lots of food. As soon as they arrived, they and my husband Jim began shoveling. Our neighbor Wendy Martins was letting everyone use her snow blower and the Harvard Avenue community joined hands and got what they could do done. Mark Peyton made several runs through town so once the snow stopped, we were able to get out of town and enjoy what appeared to be chaos all over Bethesda. I felt so fortunate to have our wood burning stove for heat and cooking, but more important I felt fortunate to have Mark Peyton caring for our roads before Montgomery County began to clear the streets across MacArthur Blvd. and to have the neighbors working so closely together to care for one another. I love Glen Echo for all of those reasons. When you live in Glen Echo you are never alone and that means the world to me and my family.

### -The Shaut Family

My Glen Echo neighbors were wonderful in my absence. Beth Rockwell and Jim Ford shoveled a path and uncovered my car during the first snow. George Borsari checked pipes and adopted measures to prevent pipes bursting during the



Glen Echo residents standing next to their creation, in the Glen Echo Park parking lot.

power outage. He also picked me up from the airport. Beth checked my house from time to time. Debby Lange offered to help dig out my car (and did so). Wendy lent her snow blower to many who needed it. It was a great demonstration of neighborly concern. I was, again, impressed by my Glen Echo neighbors.

### -Phyllis Fordham

The Springuels survived the first snow storm quite well. Renny, Edie, Mark and Liam left at 6:30 am on Friday and headed up to WhiteTail Ski. Edie and Liam taught their usual ski and snowboarding lessons on Friday. Saturday and Sunday we skied or snowboarded in the fresh powder. Being on the ski slope in the middle of a blizzard is the best place.

We returned to Glen Echo on Sunday to find that the power had been out since Friday and that some kind soul from DC had parked his VW on University where we always park our truck. So we had no parking place. Matthew was a little on the cold side since he had been home the entire time. I got the kerosene heater out and we put some heat in the house. The questions started coming from neighbors, asking if I knew when power would be restored. Just for the record: no folks I don't get special treatment because I work for Pepco, nor do I have any more info than the rest of you.

The second storm was not too bad except the buses were not running, and with no internet I could not work from home. So I started shoveling snow with Edie and Mark. Edie and I finished digging our parking spaces and our sidewalks. The church parking lot was full of cars so the snow removal contractor couldn't do his job as well this time. Hopefully those drivers, especially the ones that took

the snow off their cars, will come back and help the church finish removing the snow from the parking lot or they will give a donation to the church so they can hire the contractor a third time.

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**-Renny Springuel**

The worst part was living in a 100% electric home and losing power for days. Our home was 41 degrees and we hunkered down in bed to keep warm.

The best part was my husband and the gas grill. He prepared hot tea, scrambled eggs and toasted bagels for breakfast!

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**-Pamela Mason**

I would like to put in a plug for Mark Peyton, who was tireless in keeping ahead of the storms. He passed through Glen Echo with his plows at least 7-8 times since the storms began, and he is here again today. Thanks to him we were able to get out of Town by Sunday morning and go to Bethesda for lunch (and to my sister's in Reston for the Super Bowl) despite having no power at home.

Also kudos to Kirby Whyte (39 Wellesley) for using his chain saw to remove a huge tree that blocked upper Wellesley during the storm.

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**-Debbie Beers**

Not only that, but Mark Peyton's 92 year old mother broke her arm and was in surgery for 5 hrs at Suburban Hospital. His brother had fallen in the snow and she went to help him, at which point, she fell. And yet he, as usual, Mark and his employees knocked themselves out taking care of Glen Echo and the other towns he serves. (He wants the town to know that Wellesley was not plowed as he would have wanted at first, because of the downed tree and wires. He's now "on it.") A good way to show appreciation is, when the snow melts, to hire him to repair the damage from your trees and bushes. Tree work is his primary business. His company does excellent work at reasonable prices.

I'd like to acknowledge another hero -- another personal hero: Mark Springuel (as well as his mom, Edie). As a total surprise, I found them shoveling my back area (car, driveway, paths to mailbox, etc.). Edie explained that they didn't want me stranded. And then Mark came back in the middle of the blizzard to reshovel. I think that was a surprise to Edie also, but she followed him and dug in also. Mark has been my A#1 lawn mower for several years, and I recommend you consider his services. (His dad, Renny, recently wrote about Mark as

the town's deliverer of the Gazette.)

We've always known that Glen Echo is a friendly town, but it's times like this that we really, really know that.

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**-Gloria Levin**

The great snow removal was the result of the great residents of this town helping each other, not the contractor the town pays. Peyton, the contractor, did no plowing between the first and second snow. After Peyton's initial plowing Friday night I saw no plowing done for a week. The plowing came from town resident Jim Ford. Once the second snow stopped he went, on his own volition, to his company American Plant Food near the beltway and brought back a backhoe, a large snow blower, and employees to help dig out the streets over the next two days with no charge to the town. Where is the town's contractor Peyton? He doesn't appear for yet another three or four days and still has spread no sand or salt on the roads. In the meantime, University has a downed tree on a power line with flames coming out of it but neither the fire department nor Pepco can get to it. Consequently, the power that came on for 8 hours on Tuesday now crashed again, taking telephone service with it and sending the final migration of desperate town residents to hotels in Bethesda. Ten days after the storm, after a week of thawing temperatures, the town streets still had deep dangerous ice ruts from never having been plowed (Bryn Mawr and Princeton). Parts of lower Bryn Mawr and Wellesley Circle were still impassable. Where was the town contractor? Service trucks were sliding into resident's parked cars, and critical oil deliveries couldn't be made. Peyton finally arrived.

The residents of Glen Echo deserve a gold star, but its' snow contractor gets an "F" in my book. Sand and salt should never have to wait 10 days. A day laborer could do that by hand.

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**-Diana Hudson-Taylor**

Should we feel a little guilty because we were in Florida for the blizzard of 2010? We'll try to bear it. But the best part is not that we were away, but that we are so lucky with our neighbors, the Niles family. Amy kept checking our house for us and ran the water to avoid a freeze-up. Amy, Hannah and Justin cleared our sidewalk and driveway. Best of all Amy called us frequently to let us know how the house was and the state of the storm and power outages. We are so lucky to have such good and reliable neighbors. Does it diminish our guilt a little to say that it was so cold in Florida that we never unpacked our bathing suits?

**-Sally and Jim McGunnigle**



**John Hughes**

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## Massive snowstorms bury Glen Echo

Children could frolic in the snow to their heart's delight; schools were closed the whole week as well as the following Monday, President's Day, a holiday.

A major problem for Glen Echoans for weeks was lack of cleared space for vehicles. Even after the energetic had uncovered cars piled more than a foot high with snow and managed to clear enough space to park them, they were limited in their destinations since parking space was unavailable throughout the area. Similarly, there was no place for friends to come visit. A treasured port in a storm was the parking lot of the Baptist Church on Vassar Circle, most of which was shoveled clear by early in the week.

After several days, many conscientious residents made the effort to shovel a pathway on their sidewalks, and others shoveled sidewalks for absent dwellers or those unable to do it themselves. Mayor Debbie Beers said that under the circumstances she was "not going to bother" following up with people who did not clear. Mayor Beers said she was very pleased with Mark Peyton, the town's snow contractor, who came through town with his plow more than a half dozen times before Sunday morning after the first snowfall. After some of the snow melts, she will have him come back to haul away fallen trees.

A common comment in town was how generous and neighborly everyone had been.

As for what to do with all the snow, Mayor Beers resignedly commented that there was no place the town could put it and that, in any case, it would be gone "in another month or so."

## Ride on Bus 29 weekend service saved!

By Andrea Bassing Matney

Glen Echo's only public transportation on the weekends could have been eliminated in a cost-saving measure by Montgomery County (MC), but was saved by the efforts of many. Ride On Bus 29 weekend service was saved along with other proposed route reductions in Western Bethesda which would have left many residents without public transportation.

In a February 9, 2010 press release by MC, it noted that the County Council unanimously voted to retain all proposed route reductions for the County's Ride On bus service. In lieu of cutting the service, they approved increases to regular Ride On fares (from \$1.25 to \$1.35 for fares paid with SmarTrip cards and from \$1.35 to \$1.45 for fares paid with cash or tokens). The MC Council also approved an increase in Ride On Day Passes (from \$3.00 to \$3.20).

MC Councilmember Roger Berliner, who is a member of the Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee, strongly pushed for this "core government service" to remain.

Mayor Debbie M. Beers sent a letter pushing for weekend service on behalf of the town.

Glen Echo Town Council members took an active role and attended public meetings on the topic and sent out messages to alert residents on the Glen Echo e-mail message group.

Individual residents of our town took personal time to help save this important public service, and sent protests to various officials via phone calls, letters, and e-mails.

## Welcome, newcomers!

By Carlotta Anderson

**Bernie Edelman, Ellen Leary, and their son Aiden Edelman** had the bad timing to move to 32 Wellesley Circle on the eve of the most massive snow storms in more than a century and soon lost power in their new home as did all of their neighbors.

Bernie came with his family to the Bethesda area five years ago to become the deputy director of policy and government affairs for the Vietnam Veterans of America. He spent 1970 in Vietnam as a broadcast specialist for the Army. In 1985 he published "Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam" on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. As a free-lancing editor in Manhattan, he was asked to write the book for the New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission and was named Director of Mayor Ed Koch's Office of Veterans' Affairs.

It was while working together on a design project at that time that he met and married the owner of Ellen Leary Productions, a film, video and design exhibit firm in NYC. After they moved to New Jersey and the birth of son Aidan, Ellen worked as a yoga instructor as well as teaching art summers at a children's camp in the Poconos. She had studied art and design at Simmons College and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She now does what she calls "small jobs," including investigation and research as part of the Eyes and Ears team at the Huffington Post.

Bernie is also known for another book, published in 2000, for which he interviewed 100 people who were 100 years old or older

and concluded that "everyone has a story to tell." It is called "Centenarians: The Story of the Twentieth Century by the Americans Who Lived It."

Son **Aidan**, 17, is happy to be continuing his senior year at Walt Whitman High School even though the winter conditions cancelled classes for more than a week. The snow was so massive that it pushed back Whitman's production of the winter play "Amadeus", in which Aidan will be acting the role of Count Johann von Strack. The performances will be on March, 4, 5 and 6.

The town welcomes you all.



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT GLEN ECHO!



(Also known as Wearin' o' the Green)

Come at 7PM to the Town Hall on March 20 for fun, food, music and limericks. The town will provide corned beef and libations (including Irish Coffee), and guests are asked to bring an Irish dish of their own (vegetables, potatoes, bread, desserts, etc). Anthony Hyatt will be entertaining on the fiddle, and all guests should be prepared for an intensely competitive Limerick contest. All Irish and friends-of-the-Irish from both Bannockburn and Glen Echo are invited, and this is a great way to get to know ALL our neighbors.

To reserve a place at this Grand Affair, you **MUST** call Kate Horwitz **BEFORE** March 19<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss out!! r.s.v.p.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Church of the Redeemer

**Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 5:00PM**– Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert

**Saturday, March 13 7:30PM**– The Countertop Ensemble in Concert

(tickets sold at door)

### Town Hall

**March 15 7-9PM** – Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board

**March 27 2-6:30PM** – Potomac Valley Scottish Fiddle Club offers music and dance

English Country dancing every **Wednesday, 8 – 10 pm**, with live music.

**March 13 8PM** - Bulgarian Dance and Music, presented by the World Music and Dance Institute

### Glen Echo Park

**March 20 at 8 pm** – Washington Conservatory of Music

Presents Ronn McFarlane with Ayreheart. Washington Conservatory of Music at Glen Echo Park continues its 2009-2010 season with world-renowned lutist Ronn McFarlane in concert with Ayreheart and pianist Haskell Small. No tickets; pay-as-you-can. For more information, visit [www.washingtonconservatory.org](http://www.washingtonconservatory.org).

### Yellow Barn

**March 13** - The Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident painting and drawing studio, presents an Open House where prospective students and anyone interested in the Yellow Barn's programs can meet instructors, ask questions, view painting demonstrations, and find information about registering for spring and summer sessions. In the Yellow Barn Studio and Gallery. 11 to 4 p.m. Call (301) 371-5593 or visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com).

### Clara Barton

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Clara Barton's home on 3/21/10 from 12-4 PM

Call to schedule an appointment -- 1-800-GIVE-LIFE

**Next Town Council Meeting**

February Town Council Meeting was cancelled due to the weather. The next Town Council meeting will be on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8 pm.

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

**LADIES OF GLEN ECHO**

Ladies Night, Wednesday, March 24, 2010

At the home of Sally McGunnigle

15 Vassar Circle, 8 pm

r.s.v.p. 301-320-3755

**Garden Debris and Large Branch Pickup**

When more of the snow from the blizzard has melted, the Town will schedule a special curb-side collection of tree branches and other garden debris resulting from the blizzard. Once a date has been set, a flyer will be distributed to notify all residents.



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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 15 Vassar Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

**Join the Glen Echo Yahoo Group!**

The Glen Echo Yahoo Group is a free, easy-to-use email group service. Many people in Glen Echo belong to it and share news and comments. Those of us with Blackberries used it during the storm to communicate with others. If you would like to join the Glen Echo Yahoo Group, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GlenEcho> and click on Join the group. To start sending messages to members of this group, simply send email to [GlenEcho@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GlenEcho@yahoogroups.com). If you do not wish to belong to GlenEcho, you may unsubscribe by sending an email to [GlenEcho-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GlenEcho-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com).

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editors:

I am very unhappy with the snow removal. Snow was never completely removed from Princeton and Bryn Mawr Ave. Nor was snow removed from many of the parking spaces in the whole town, unless done by individuals. In early 1990s we had a huge storm and heavy equipment was brought in to clear the parking spaces and they cleared the west side of university etc. We still can't get to our curb on University or Wellesley. I don't have the back to clear the road-- I can hardly get the sidewalk done. I am happy with the town government but, even so, the next election I am voting for somebody who says they will get the snow off the streets in a timely manner.

Sincerely, Norman Hudson-Taylor

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