

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



November 2011

October Town Council Notes

By Jerry Bodlander

On October 10, 2011 the Council took up a variety of issues, most of which were for discussion purposes.

The Glen Echo Post Office

First, there was a discussion of the future of the Post Office in Glen Echo. With Post Office closings imminent throughout the country, the Council is aware that this facility could face cutbacks or closure. We are “probably on the chopping block,” said Mayor Debbie Beers. Inquiries to postal employees have yielded no information. Rental income for the facility could be affected if a closure occurs. Last year, the rent was renegotiated in an effort to retain the tenant at its Town Hall location.

The Council noted that the Post Office appeared to be closed for several days in early October and none of the Councilmembers knew why this occurred.

Speaking to a current problem, resident Raya Bodnarchuk described a run-in with a postal driver who backed his truck “as closed as possible to my fence.” It occurred when a car was parked near the post office driveway, making it difficult for the driver to make the turn. Ms. Bodnarchuk said the driver didn’t seem to care that he came very close to the fence and was rude when she voiced her concerns to him. She has had many complaints about both visitors and postal employees who have damaged her property which is directly across the street from the driveway entrance for the Post Office.

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THE ECHO

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**Next Town Council Meeting:
November 14, 2011 at 8 pm**

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Chapel Valley	2692.66
Knopf & Brown	2633.30
Local Government Insurance Trust	1579.00

TOWN COUNCIL continued

Glen Echo Baptist Church Property

Councilmembers said they are interested in giving town residents a chance to meet with the potential buyer of the Glen Echo Baptist Church properties prior to a final exchange or sale of the respective properties. The Annex is reportedly for sale with several interested buyers and the main church property has been transferred recently to the National Community Church (NCC). The Echo reported last month that plans for future use of the facility had not yet been formulated. The Lead Pastor for NCC, Mark Batterson, attended last month's council meeting along with Tom Meeke, Deacon of the Baptist Church. Councilmember Nancy Long plans to try to set up a meeting with Mr. Batterson. Mayor Debbie Beers noted that there is no requirement for him to meet with residents.

Oxford Road

The council plans to consult with attorney Norman Knopf before deciding whether to get involved in an additional effort to monitor traffic at the intersection of University and Oxford Avenues. Willem Polak wants to set up a remote system that would enable him to videotape cars as they approach the stop sign, and record how many stop and how many don't. There are no plans to record license plates or do any kind of enforcement. Polak's request is that the videotaped information be used to show County officials and others the extent of the problem at that intersection. Mayor Beers called it a generous offer, saying the videotape would help illustrate the problem, while Councilmember Steve Matney voiced concern about giving a private citi-

TOWN COUNCIL continued

zen the right to perform this service on behalf of the town.

Currently, the Town pays off-duty police officers to issue warnings or citations and any revenue accrues to the County. There is no way to distinguish how many warnings there are versus the number of citations each month. The cost for policing services is approximately \$500 a month. Each month, the officers coordinate with the Town Clerk on hours to be served. In late September and early October, for instance, police served a total of 13 hours spaced out on four different days, and they issued 32 citations/warnings. While most police services are provided on weekends, there are sometimes changes to the scheduled police presence, depending on Park visitor activity.

It should be noted that some residents on Oxford Road do not see traffic enforcement as a major problem on Oxford Road, although there is general agreement that many cars do not come to a full stop

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Glen Echo Baptist Church

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Sunday Services 11:00 am

Wednesday Activities 7:00 pm

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TOWN COUNCIL continued

at the intersection. Traffic on the road has increased significantly and is created primarily by visitors to the Park. Some residents have previously stated that a separate entrance into the Park from MacArthur Boulevard is the ultimate solution to resolve current and future traffic issues that affect the Town.

Town Hall Elevator

The council approved spending more than \$12,000 to repair the elevator at town hall. While the elevator is partially functional, there is a problem with the door on the ground floor. Bids for the work have previously been examined by the Council.

Mayor Beers said there haven't been any major problems with the elevator since it was installed in the late 1990s to make the town hall ADA-compliant and that while it is a "considerable amount of money, we cannot have the elevator not

CONTINUED next column



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operating." The Town has already put money in the budget to make the repairs.

Donation to the Town

Jim Beaubien has donated a framed map of the Potomac River at Great Falls to the Town. Council member Nancy Long said the map shows the work on the Washington Aqueduct as done by the Corps of Engineers.

She called the map "a fine addition" to the town collection and the Council plans to write a note of thanks to Mr. Beaubien.

Former Echo Editor Lauded

Mayor Debbie Beers expressed the Town's appreciation to Carlotta Anderson for her more than 30 years of service as editor of The Echo. Earlier, the Mayor presented Ms. Anderson with a glass bowl that had a commemorative plaque with it. The handcrafted bowl had been exhibited at a show at the Art Glass Center in Glen Echo Park. Ms. Anderson never missed an edition of the Echo in all the time she served as editor.

Sukkah In Glen Echo

By Gabriela Helf

The Echo noticed an unusual structure in a neighbor's yard and asked Gabriela Helf to provide some information about the structure and the custom. We love stories and hearing about family traditions that enrich our neighborhood. While we are all familiar with Christmas and Chanukah, this is a custom less known.

For the second year in a row, my family built a Sukkah in honor of the Jewish holiday Sukkot. Sukkot is a holiday that celebrates the harvest and commemorates the time the Jews wandered in the desert. A sukka is a hut that is not fully covered on top. It has three sides, and technically you are supposed to eat and sleep in it for eight days. You also

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SUKKAH continued

decorate it with plastic fruit and pictures. Two prayers are recited in the *sukkah* and are accompanied by the shaking of the *lulav* and *etrog*. The *Lulav* comes from the branches of a date tree and you shake the *lulav* with two branches from willow trees (*aravot*) and two myrtle branches (*hadassim*). The *etrog* is a citron; it looks like a giant lemon and smells very beautiful. I like *Sukkot* because I like eating with my family under the stars. We eat by the light of candles and strings of Christmas and Halloween lights. I also like the weather during the holiday (except for this year when it rained much of *Sukkot*). Now on to Halloween!



Gabriela and Gideon Helf in their Sukkah.
Photo by Stuart Brafman.

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5 Vassar Circle	\$699,000
5808 Oxford	Under Contract
6010 Princeton	817,500
6004 Bryn Mawr	Under Contract
44 Wellesley	1,065,000

Upcoming Holiday Party

The holiday party will be held at
Town Hall on Saturday, December 17.

November 2011 at
REDEEMER

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- **SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

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 EVENTS**

Sunday, November 6, 5:00 p.m.
Choral Evensong for the Sunday after All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 20, 5:00 p.m.
Peabody Conservatory Organists in Concert

Sunday, December 4, 5:00 p.m.
A Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent

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Glen Echo Fire Department Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming 80th anniversary events: 11/11/11 Glen Echo Fire Department Grand Anniversary Party at the Fire Station; 11/12/11 is Open House - fun for the entire family, including a holiday card/photographer!

Science Club Meeting

Eistophos Science Club will hold a free open meeting Friday, Nov. 11, at 1pm at the Town Hall. It is listed in the Town Hall Events. Eistophos was founded in 1893 as a science club primarily for women; however, members welcome all who are interested. Topics of discussion for the meeting will be Chronobiology and Fish Populations. Tea will be held after the meeting.

Open House at Bannockburn Nursery School for Interested Parents

The annual Open House will be held on Saturday, November 5th from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Please bring your kids to meet the teachers, see the classrooms and playgrounds, and talk with some of our families. We will be accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school years. BNS is celebrating more than 60 years as a cooperative nursery school offering quality programs for children ages 2-5. We are located at 6314 Bannockburn Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Contact Membership Chair Dina Yetman at 301-320-1798 or email dinayetman@verizon.net. You can also reach the Administrative Director, Angie Seidenberg at the school office 301-320-4252 or email azeidenberg@verizon.net. Additionally you may visit us on the web at www.bannockburnnurseryschool.com

Annual Holiday Art Show & Sale at Glen Echo Park's Popcorn Gallery

November 19, 2011 through January 8, 2012. The show features the Park's resident artists and instructors, as well as other invited artists with works in glass, ceramics, photography, painting, jewelry, holiday ornaments and more. The Popcorn

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EVENTS continued

Gallery will have extended hours through the holiday season. The gallery will be closed December 25 and January 1. Please check the website at www.glenechopark.org for more information.

Victorian Holiday Greeting Card Workshops

There will be a Free Victorian Holiday Greeting workshop held at the Clara Barton National Historic Site (Clara Barton House). The public is cordially invited to sign up for workshops on making Victorian-era holiday greeting cards. Participants will dress in period clothing and be photographed. Photographs will be used to make holiday cards in the style Miss Barton sent to her friends. The workshops are open to all ages, including children's groups (with adult supervision required). Reservations are required - 301-320-1410. Workshops will be held at the following times: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

Dates: Saturday, November 26, 2011; Sunday, November 27, 2011; Saturday, December 3, 2011; Sunday, December 4, 2011

Washington Conservatory Concerts

Ensemble Avalon of Ireland November 13 at 3pm
Jeffrey Watson at Piano December 4 at 3pm
Westmoreland UCC Church.

www.washingtonconservatory.org. donations accepted.

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**GLEN ECHO TOWN
HALL EVENTS**

The Following Events Are Free to All Town Residents

English Country Dance, every Wednesday, 8 – 11 pm. Free to residents.

Eistophos Science Club, November 11 at 1 pm.

Town Council Meeting, Monday, November 14, 2011 at 8 pm

Folklore Society of Greater Washington Concert, Saturday, November 19, 8pm to 11 pm.

Adventure Theater Needs Toys

Adventure Theatre is looking for old-fashioned looking toys to use as props for its production of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Especially needed are the kinds that can fit on shelves. If you have any that you want to donate please send an email to Mbobbitt@adventuretheatre.org and Michael Bobbitt will come and get them.

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

Ladies Night

Tuesday,

November 15, 8 p.m.

At the home of

Susan Grigsby

7325 University Ave

r.s.v.p. 301-229-7735

Who to Call When De-Cluttering

Our neighbor, Bonnie Whyte offered things at the Yard Sale but still had more. She has compiled a list of charities that collect donations and suggests that you contact them quickly to schedule pickups before the end of the year. The following information was compiled for us by Bonnie.

Several clever websites offer an online scheduling site for a variety of charities, including Lupus, NCC and VVA. If you don't care who picks up your stuff, they will schedule the next available truck coming to Glen Echo. www.gooddonor.org/ or www.donationtown.org/

CHECK THE DONATION GUIDELINES OF EACH GROUP. Some take books, clothing, furniture, household goods and some do not. Some are picky and some are not. Several have thrift shops. Several groups wholesale their collections to other thrift stores or sell to fabric recyclers

AMVETS 1-800-292-2259
www.amvetpickup.org/pickup.php

Books for America 202-835-2665
www.booksforamerica.org/whattodonate.html

Lupus Foundation 1-888-44-LUPUS
(1-888-445-8787) www.lupuspickup.org

National Children's Center 1-800-296-1122
www.nccinc.org/

Purple Heart www.purpleheartpickup.org/

Salvation Army 1-800-SA-truck (728-7825)
www.dcmaryland.satruck.org/schedule-pickup

Vietnam Veterans of America 1-800-459-VETS
(8387) www.clothingdonations.org

Goodwill 301-881-0744 www.dcgoodwill.org/

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DE-CLUTTERING continued

Drop-off: 4890 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852 drop-off

Also in Arlington, Falls Church and Gaithersburg

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

Habitat for Humanity REStore 301-947-3304

www.habitat-mc.org/restore/donate.html

Drop-off: 9110 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 Pickup for larger items: 301-947-3304

Interfaith Clothing Center 301-424-3796 drop-off only

www.iworksmc.org/p-interfaith-clothing-centers.html

Drop-off : 751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20851

Montgomery County Humane Society 240-773-5960 www.mchumane.org/WishList_000.shtml

Drop-off: 14645 Rothgeb Road, Rockville, MD 20850

Montgomery County Thrift Shop 301-654-0063

www.mocothrift.org/Donate.htm

Drop-off: 7125 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814

National Center for Children and Families Green tree Shelter

www.nccf-cares.org/what-you-can-do/donation-policy

Drop-off: 6301 Greentree Road Bethesda, MD 20817 (weekdays only)

Suited for Change www.suitedforchange.org Drop-off only with appointment

A Wider Circle 301-608-3504

www.awidercircle.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

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 6103 Princeton Ave, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.



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Glen Echo Park Report

Polly Angelicus reported the following information at the Town Council Meeting in October. The American Red Cross, NPS, and GEPPAC will be co-sponsoring an American Red Cross "Media Drive" on Friday, December 9, from 11am to 6pm in the Spanish Ballroom Annex. A Media Drive is larger than a regular blood drive in that the ARC recruits local sports stars to increase donor turn out. The ARC hopes to have several retired Redskins players at this Media Drive. Traffic may be heavy due to the event. Additional information will be provided next month.

NPS interpretive staff were recently nominated for three different regional interpretive teamwork awards including one for the new "Clara Barton Trail," which is the series of waysides that go along the perimeter of the large parking lot on Oxford Rd; the Oral History Project.

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Glen Echo Park

***Living Classrooms Children’s Museum
Weekend Nature Programs.***

Open to the general public on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM- 3 PM. Members/children under 2: Free; Non-members: \$5.

Adventure Theatre

’Twas The Night Before Christmas

November 18 – January 2

With DC Actor Gary Sloan. Tickets \$17. See www.adventuretheatre.org.

***The Puppet Co. Playhouse
The Three Billy Goats Gruff***

October 13 – November 18

The Nutcracker

November 25 – December 31

Performances: Fridays, 10 AM and 11:30 AM., Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 AM. and 1 PM.

Tickets \$10. See www.thepuppetco.org.

A full list of events and details can be found at www.glenechopark.org.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT continued

Study Results on River Safety

GW Memorial Parkway recently conducted a Potomac River Gorge river safety study to pinpoint when the most accidents occur in the Gorge and see what could be done to reduce these accidents. Data from 1972--2011 was analyzed. Most of the info confirmed what has been suspected. Here is a brief summary of primary points shared: Most accidents/fatalities occur in the warmer months (April--August); The demographics show that most victims are males, ages 15-34. Drowning occurs most frequently when river levels are moderate: Most people avoid the river when levels are high; they can grasp branches or rocks if they fall or wade in when levels are low. Moderate water levels are deceiving as they often hide stronger currents deep below the surface.

The busiest visitation days are, in order: Sundays, Mondays (Monday holidays drove up the numbers), and Saturdays. The fewest drowning and accidents occurred on Mondays, due to increased staffing on

holiday weekends. This information has been shared with C&O Canal and the US Park Police to improve safety and staffing along the river.

Peabody Conservatory Students at Redeemer Church

An organ concert will be performed by students from Baltimore’s famed Peabody Conservatory of Music on Sunday, 20 November, at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception. Donations welcome.

