

The Echo

The Town of
GREEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



February 2012

A Quiet Night at Town Council

By John Barrett

The Town Council met on January 9, 2012 although the Mayor was not present. Councilmember Steve Matney conducted the meeting.

NCC meeting with Citizens

The council discussed the meeting held on January 5, 2012 between interested citizens and representatives of the National Community Church (NCC). That meeting is reported on page 4 in this edition of *The Echo*. Additional dialog is expected as more specifics are worked out by the anticipated future owners of the properties.

Traffic and Cars

The Montgomery County Police submit a report to

the council each month on traffic conditions at University and Oxford. There were 14 citations for stop sign violations in December. A citizen photographed the intersection for a period of time to capture information on those cars that violated the stop sign and that information is still being evaluated.

The Council expressed a desire to remind all residents that they have 60 days after moving into Maryland to obtain vehicle tags and a driver's license. If a car is in violation, the Town can send the information to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration for further action.

Future Plans of the Defense Mapping Agency

There are plans to reconstruct the former Defense Mapping Agency. Councilmember Long informed the Echo that there will be a meeting in the Town Hall on February 21, 2012, of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board where plans for

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THE ECHO

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EDITOR	Phyllis Fordham
Editor Email	TheEchoEditor@gmail.com
ASST. EDITOR	Diana Hudson-Taylor
DESIGN EDITOR	Debbie Lange
REPORTER	John Barrett
COPY EDITOR	Maire Hewitt
BUSINESS MANAGER	Gloria Levin
DISTRIBUTION	Jane Stevenson
	Julie Bayer
	Maire Hewitt
	Sally Law
	Raya Bodnarchuk
CIRCULATION	Susan Grigsby

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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, 9:30-11:50 and Thursday
9:30-11:50 or by appointment

MAYOR
Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Eve Arber 301-263-0016
Nancy Long 301-332-3823
Mark McCaffrey 202-248-8449
Steve Matney 301-320-2059

CLERK-TREASURER
Nicole Fraser 301-320-4041

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Next Town Council Meeting:
February 13, 2012 at 8pm

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TREASURER'S REPORT

ResCom Elevators	\$6468
Town Hall Miscellaneous	\$1539
Knopf & Brown	\$1411
Chapel Valley	\$1222

CONTINUED from page 1

the project and traffic implications on the MacArthur Boulevard corridor will be discussed. Town residents are invited to attend the February 21 meeting.

Town Hall

In a discussion about the Town Hall, it was noted that there were electrical breaker problems before and after the holiday party in December. An electrician will be requested to investigate the reason for those occurrences. A representative of the Town will also look into the quality of the flowers planted at Town Hall.

Street Signs

New street signs will be placed on Bowdoin Street which connects Tulane and Oberlin Streets on the East side of Town.

Glen Echo National Park

Polly Angelakis, Site Manager of Glen Echo Park, reported that Jon James is now the Acting Superintendent for the George Washington National Memorial Parkway.

The National Park Service will begin a kids' coloring contest on Glen Echo's Facebook page. Entries will be posted on the Facebook Page and a winner announced at the 2012 Family Day.

The geothermal core test was scheduled for December, but then delayed to obtain a permit from Montgomery County.

Kim Robinson, NPS sites' curator, will be working with a Yellow Barns artist on the Bumper Car Pavilion mural. The leaks in the Pavilion have been repaired.

Several events will be planned for April to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Clara Barton's death.

The December Blood Drive produced 37 units of blood.

Real Estate News

7310 University Ave	Sold	\$450,000
6210 Princeton Ave	For Sale	\$789,000

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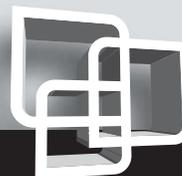


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NCC Meeting Airs Residents' Concerns

By Rex Rhein

At the January 5th meeting with leaders of the National Community Church (NCC), which is acquiring the current Glen Echo Baptist Church and its Annex, Town residents expressed strong reservations about the possible impact of the church's activities on Glen Echo's traffic and parking. Others worried about the impact on the Town's culture of a rapidly growing "traditional" church centered in "eclectic" Glen Echo.

The hour-and-a-half meeting, which was specifically not sponsored by the Town Council or Mayor but instead organized by Town residents Dia Costello and Matt Stiglitz, was attended by about 50 town residents in the Glen Echo Town Hall. The meeting agenda included most of the questions on people's minds about NCC, including the expected impact of its activities on traffic and congestion, the frequency of its services and other activities, its expected commercial activities in the Town, and its plans for renovating and altering the Baptist Church building on Vassar Circle. Another concern is the plans for the Baptist Church annex building at the corner of University and Harvard Avenues.

NCC Pastor Mark Batterson assured Town residents that the church would make every effort to control traffic and parking at its services. "We are as concerned about that as you are," Batterson said. "We are so sensitized to it. We want to make sure this is a non-issue. Part of 'love thy neighbor' is not offending them." He said he did not envision a large congregation coming to services in Glen Echo because of the limited parking space, although church services at some of NCC's other locations have attracted from 150 to 180 people on an average Sunday.

Thomas Meeks, the deacon of the Glen Echo Baptist Church, who also attended the meeting, said the congregation had considered giving the two buildings to several other church organizations before choosing NCC as the beneficiary. One reason for

his decision was the fact that NCC had other sites to which its members could be directed if the parking lot at the Glen Echo church becomes full.

The Glen Echo Baptist Church has had far fewer members for the past several decades, so it has never created traffic or parking problems for Town residents. Although the total NCC congregation currently amounts to "a couple of thousand" members "if added up," they are scattered among seven other NCC sites around Washington. NCC currently holds services at Ebenezer's Coffeehouse near Union Station (a commercial property which it owns); at Loews Movie Theater in Georgetown; at Barracks Row (formerly the People's Church) on 8th Street SE; at the Gala Theater in Columbia Heights, MD; in the Regal Movie Theaters at Ballston Common Mall, VA; at Potomac Yard's Regal Cinema 16 in Alexandria; and in the Kingstowne Theaters between Alexandria and Springfield.

The fact that Ebenezer's Coffeehouse is an overtly commercial activity of the otherwise non-profit NCC concerned some residents, who asked pointedly whether the church planned any similar commercial activities in Glen Echo. "I wouldn't envision it here," Batterson replied. "I could envision a wedding," he added. "It would be a beautiful church to get married in."

One resident wanted to know whether any of the NCC congregation members might come around "proselytizing" to Town residents, as she said happened to her when the Baptist Church had more members. "I'm Jewish," she said. "I was told I was going to Hell." Another resident asked whether NCC's members were "conservative Christians," suggesting that this might be a problem for Glen Echo's "eclectic" population.

Batterson said NCC was "apolitical" and that its members were also "eclectic." "In terms of belief, we'd be considered orthodox in theology," he said. "We're less formal than Presbyterians and Episcopalians; we're more 'low church' in terms of hymns. I don't wear a robe."

Another resident asked whether NCC might try to create a shelter for homeless people or a half-way house in Glen Echo. "I haven't noticed any homeless

people here,” Batterson joked. He added that sheltering the homeless has not been one of the church’s activities in any of its other locations, although Ebenezer’s Coffeehouse provides free meals to the homeless on Wednesday nights. “In Ward 8, there’s a tremendous need,” he said. “They welcome us.”

He said he has not done any research on what needs NCC might serve in Glen Echo. “For a church, Sunday morning services are a given,” he said. “It may be all we do.”

Batterson said he hoped that Glen Echo residents would work with him in deciding how to renovate the church building and landscape the grounds around it. One resident suggested that NCC bequeath the Baptist Church Annex building to the Town, but NCC’s operations manager, Jim Tasidus, said NCC intended to sell it to finance the church renovation. He said the Annex building had been appraised for \$400,000.

Although NCC is currently centered in the Washington, DC area, Batterson said his vision was that it would continue to expand as a “multi-site church” in the U.S. and other countries. “We’ve got a café-style church in Berlin,” he said. “I’ve visited 12 different countries this year,” including Ethiopia and Thailand.

At the end of the meeting, several residents told The Echo that they were somewhat reassured by Batterson’s responses, particularly his apparent sensitivity to the potential problems of traffic congestion and parking, and his assertion that NCC has no plan to set up a coffeehouse or other commercial activity in Glen Echo. But, as one resident said: “As a church, they really can do anything they want to.”

More information on NCC and its current activities is available on the church’s website: www.theaterchurch.com.

Potomac Conservancy

Canal Stewards clean up around Lock 8 and miles 8-10 and Locks 12-14 of the C&O Canal towpath on Feb. 5, 10am to 12pm. Fletchers Cove Clean up on February 26, 10am-12pm. Call 301-608-1188 x208 or write to sundermann@potomac.org for either event.



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■ 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, 12 February, 5:00 p.m.
Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert: “Schubertiade”

Sunday, 26 February, 5:00 p.m.
Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent

For more information about opportunities for worship,
Christian formation, and outreach, please visit the parish website.

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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 vertical 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.

*LADIES OF GLEN ECHO
Ladies Night
on Wednesday,
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At the home of
Beth Rockwell
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AROUND TOWN

Congratulations to Glen Echo resident **Peter Magrath** and Susan Thon, who is the rector of the Church of the Redeemer. They were married on October 22 after many years of being close friends. The wedding took place at the Church of the Redeemer, located directly across MacArthur Blvd. from Glen Echo.

Susan has been rector since 1994, two years before Peter became a parishioner there and she became his priest. She was known then as Susan Burns, but reverted to her maiden name after a divorce. Peter's wife, Deborah Howell, died in 2010.

They are dividing their residences between the rectory, which is Susan's legal address, and 34 Wellesley Circle, where Peter has lived for many years. They bring their two dogs back and forth.

Peter was president of Binghamton University from 2010 to the end of 2011 but is presently semi-retired. Our best wishes to the happy couple.

Kate Horowitz reminds us to save the date for the annual Saint Patrick's day party which will be held on March 17 at 6:30pm in Town Hall.

Local Events

Bingo Night At Clara Barton Community Center
Friday, February 24, 7pm to 9pm. Charge is five dollars per Bingo card. Adults and young adults. Sponsored by the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center, and proceeds will go to the center. For more information: 301-229-0010.

Church of the Redeemer

On February 12 at 5pm, the Inscape Chamber Orchestra will present Franz Schubert's *Octet for Strings and Winds*. Inscape is the Ensemble-in-residence at Redeemer and they have commissioned four composers to create musical responses to the Octet. These will be heard as interludes between movements. Reception will follow. Offerings accepted.

GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

The Following Events Are Free to
All Town Residents

English Country Dance,
every Wednesday, 8pm-10:30pm

Folklore Society Greater
Washington Family Dance,
February 12, 2pm-5pm

Town Council Meeting,
February 13, 8pm

Western Montgomery Citizens
Advisory Board,
February 21, 7pm

Carolyn Reeder Memorial Service,
February 25, 2pm

Our Favorite Books

Please send your nominations to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com and tell us why you liked the book.

Debbie Lange recommends *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin* by Eric Larson, which she describes as "a mesmerizing book set in 1933 that shows how and why everything changed."

George Borsari favors Horace Porter's *Campaigning with Grant*. He believes it offers the very best insight into what it was really like being in the Civil War.

Correction to last month's Favorite Books: Beth Rockwell's favorite book was cited as one written by John Kennedy Tolle. The book, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, is written by John Kennedy Toole.

Carolyn Reeder

Carolyn Reeder, of Glen Echo, died January 20, 2012, at the age of 74 after a short illness. A Washington native, with degrees in music and education from American University, Carolyn taught at Georgetown Day School for 29 years. She became an award-winning author of children's literature and wrote 10 historical novels for young adults. She also contributed articles on the experiences of children in the Civil War to the *Washington Post's KidsPost*.

As a birdwatcher and naturalist she hiked hundreds of miles in national parks and had a special affection for the C&O Canal.

Carolyn is survived by her husband Jack, son David, daughter Linda, son-in-law Chris Anderson, and granddaughters Liz, Cristina and Roxy.

A memorial service will be held on February 25, 2012 at Glen Echo Town Hall at 2PM. Friends and Town residents are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the C&O Canal Association.

Welcome Newcomers

The Hathaways of Glen Echo

By Phyllis Fordham

Catherine and Steve Hathaway moved to Bryn Mawr Avenue in October. On Halloween, a small child showed up with other trick and treaters and the boy exhibited more interest in the living room than in the treats. By Christmas Eve, the Hathaways had entertained a group of twenty one children and their 9 parents, twice. Now it's January. And guess what showed up across the street? Two huge vultures, sauntering around the construction site opposite the Hathaway household. Of course, there's a simple explanation, even for the vultures.

The Halloween visitor was Maddox Feldbaum, who lived in the house with his family before the Ha-

thways bought it. Catherine invited the child in. The twenty one nieces and nephews of the Hathaways live in the area, with their parents, who are brothers and sisters to Steve and Catherine. They were invited for two holidays. Steve was one of seven children and Catherine, one of four, so twenty-one nieces and nephews are to be expected. And if you live in Glen Echo, the vultures are no surprise, but they were not invited for any holiday or non-holiday. They were just not invited. Steve seems to be taking them in stride...Catherine, perhaps not...Rusty, their dog, is thinking about them. Catherine reported that the birds were "large...very, very large".

Thanksgiving was a day where all the nieces and nephews and the sisters and brothers and no doubt, a mom and dad or two joined the Hathaways of Glen Echo for a family football game at Glen Echo Park. Christmas Eve brought the same crowd back and they played soccer until the little ones burned off the adrenaline that accompanies Christmas anticipation. In January, the vultures pranced around as if they own the place. The Echo was able to inform the Hathaways that the vultures, in fact, do own the place. The question is will their relatives be visiting, as the Hathaways are accustomed to?

Catherine grew up in Chadds Ford, Pa; Steve, in Vienna, Va. They've been married for a little more than a year, and lived in Glover Park before choosing Glen Echo as the town of their first owned home. They've waterproofed the basement, painted walls, put in new window sashes and, in general, found the hobby we all find when we buy older houses—home repair. Actually the house looked quite warm, dry, and cozy with a fireplace burning on a January afternoon. They spoke of plans to expand someday, or maybe reconstruct, but for now, they are happy to settle in, plant a garden, entertain and become part of the Town. Catherine works in institutional sales for MetLife and Steve is with Booz Allen Hamilton. Their commutes to Tysons Corner are fairly easy.

More hobbies? Well, Catharine went to UNC and Steve to St. Josephs' in Philadelphia, so college basketball is in. And, they say they are "foodies" and like to cook.

We talked about the vultures that had a nest last year. Catherine's eyes widened. No doubt she ex-

pects vulture relatives. We can't be sure if the vultures of this January are the babies or the parents from last year. My bet is that the Hathaways will know lots about these birds in a few months.

About the vultures and their hobbies: we doubt that they play soccer or football. Maybe they are foodies...oh, perish the thought! Welcome to the Hathaways. Welcome back to the vultures that had a great nest going last year. We suggest that you winged creatures respect your new neighbors.

Why Neighbors Stay

By Carlotta Anderson

When is a newcomer an old-timer? Take the Feldbaum-Fraser family. **Harley Feldbaum and Nicole Fraser** and family just made a hop and a jump from 6004 Bryn Mawr Ave. to 5808 Oxford Road in December, convinced, after more than three years here, that Glen Echo was "a great place for us" but they needed more room.

Nicole enjoys her job as town clerk-treasurer, which she began last May. She termed it "fascinating," and said she has found most residents vocally appreciative of her work.

Maddox, 6, is now in the first grade at Bannockburn Elementary School. He says he likes the town because "there are lots of places to bike and do stuff" and "people are happy." He is especially enchanted with their birdfeeder, where he can watch cardinals, robins and chickadees.

Nora is four and in pre-school at Temple Sinai Nursery School in D.C. She is happy to stay in Glen Echo because of the "park and the creek."

The house on Oxford Road had been owned by Tim Maloy, and the move came about partly because Harley's father, Carl, stayed there one week a month because of his business interests in D.C. The Bryn Mawr house has only two bedrooms and one bath and no guest room.

In addition to being larger, the Oxford Ave. house was appealing to the family because it can easily be made handicapped-accessible and Harley has a brother-in-law in a wheelchair.

Harley is an epidemiologist currently working on global health policy for the White House. Also a scientist, Nicole has a PhD in paleontology and did post-doctoral work on climate change in Bangor, Wales, but then decided to become a stay-at-home mother. Now, of course, she is a part-time employee of Glen Echo.

We're so glad you decided to stay!

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Glen Echo Park Activities

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The Snowy Day

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See www.adventuretheatre.org.

The Puppet Co. Playhouse

Peter and the Wolf

January 13 – February 19

Tickets \$10. Group rates available. See

www.thepuppetco.org.

Geothermal Testing Underway at Clara Barton Site

By Phyllis Fordham

Design of a geothermal heating/cooling system for the Clara Barton National Historic Site began on October 24, 2011, and the site investigation and preliminary design work are concurrently underway. The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting test bores at the turf parking area of Glen Echo Park to determine the feasibility of installing a geothermal system for heating and cooling the Clara Barton House. The Park Service chose geothermal technology because the Clara Barton house has no central air conditioning and an outdated heating system. A geothermal system will provide heating and cooling and will minimize the negative impact of installing a heating/cooling system. The structure itself, historic artifacts within, and occupants of the Clara Barton House will all benefit from the new system. In addition, overhead power lines ringing the grounds of the Clara Barton House will be removed and replaced with underground electric lines. The propane tanks and non-historic boiler shed adjacent to the driveway will be removed.

A test well should take approximately two weeks from mid-January when the bore was to be put in

place. During the testing, engineers monitor instrumentation placed in the well and gather data on subsurface conditions of soil, groundwater, and temperature. Once the data has been collected, the test well will be grouted, the hole will be sealed, and the turf will be restored. Information from the test will determine feasibility and the design criteria for a geothermal well field, including the depth, number and location of the wells. Only then can a costs be reliably calculated.

NPS believes the anticipated energy savings over the life of the system should be significant. Operational costs cannot be determined until specific equipment recommendations are put forth by the engineering team. In a December 14 article, The Gazette reported that cost estimates for the entire project, including the design phase are about \$1, 520,000.

According to Stewart Fox, Chief of Design and Construction Branch of the NPS, installation of the test well is generally performed by a 3-man crew and a truck-mounted drill rig. In answer to questions, Fox stated that “It is not particularly noisy and [the crew] will only be onsite for 1 to 1-1/2 days. An area of approximately 400 square feet is fenced off in the immediate area of the test well, which is situated approximately 100 feet south of Oxford Road and about 50 feet from the SE corner of the small parking lot.” Fox also stated that during the testing, access to the main parking lot and pavement parking should not be impacted. Overflow parking will not be allowed on the flat lawn in the immediate vicinity of the test well. Other sections of the hill and flat lawns will be open to overflow parking as needed and as lawn conditions allow.

An Environmental Assessment may be warranted, but a complete Environmental Impact Statement is not anticipated by the Park Service.

A construction time frame has not been developed yet but it would likely take several months to install such a system. Once completed, the public should see no visible evidence of the geothermal system. The Clara Barton house is open daily except for a few holidays and tours are given each hour. For additional information see www.nps.gov/clba.