

The Echo

The Town of
GREEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



March 2012

Oxford Road Traffic and Crime Both Discussed at Town Meeting

By Sophie Keefer

The entire Council was in attendance at the Town Council Meeting on February 13, 2012. Visitors included Polly Angelakis, Andy Malmgren, Matt Stiglitz, and Willem Polak.

Report by Town Resident Matt Stiglitz on Policy Advisory Board Meeting

Town resident Matt Stiglitz who was recently appointed to the Police Advisory Board, reported on the meeting he attended as a representative of the Town. He met Captain David Falcinelli, the new Commander for the 2nd District (Bethesda), and was advised of several trends in the area, including

a series of street robberies along Western Avenue in Maryland and D.C. and thefts of copper downspouts and gutters. Mr. Stiglitz also was advised of a residential burglary on Massachusetts Avenue and an assault at the 7-Eleven on MacArthur Boulevard, although this incident involved two acquaintances, and was reported by the store clerk.

Subsequent to the Council meeting, The Echo was advised by one town resident that she noted two suspicious vehicles seemingly patrolling her house. Residents are urged to report suspicious activities to Montgomery County Police and to advise Mayor Beers or the Town Clerk of the activity. Often, citizens are reluctant to contact authorities with what they believe to be questionable activity but neighbors and police are grateful when this kind of watchfulness occurs.

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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. Total circulation: 190. Distributed the first weekend of the month.

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CIRCULATION	Susan Grigsby

Next Deadline: March 20, 2012
Printed by: Allied Printing, Bethesda

Letters to the Editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about The Echo to the Editor, the Mayor, or any councilmember. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the Assistant Editor at 301-229-2163.

Printed on recycled paper

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Next Town Council Meeting:
March 12 , 2012 at 8pm

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Knopf & Brown	\$1686
Chapel Valley	\$1222
Town Hall Miscellaneous	\$1246

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Report and Video of Stop Sign Running at University and Oxford

Town resident Willem Polak presented portions of a video of cars running the stop sign at University and Oxford from December 1 to December 5, 2011. The video was taken with a camera that Mr. Polak mounted on Town resident Jim Ford's property. Mr. Polak reported that over the five days, 2,687 cars came down Oxford from MacArthur Blvd. and 81% ran the stop sign. The standard used to judge stops was based on conversations with Montgomery County Police regarding what they consider to be a stop, which is a car stopping before the white line for a count of one second, said Mr. Polak. He reported that Park Police, Park Service vehicles, schools buses, and trash trucks ran the stop sign 98% of the time. Of the nine police cars that were observed, only one stopped at the stop sign, which appeared to be a County officer and not a Park officer. The presence of pedestrians, including children skate boarding, did not cause most cars to stop at the stop sign; they would simply drive around the pedestrians. The Council saw footage of this disregard for pedestrians. Only when another car was turning left onto Oxford from University would most drivers stop, Mr. Polak stated. With an off-duty Montgomery County police officer stationed at University to monitor stop sign runners, the percentage dropped to 65% during the officer's three-hour stay. Based on the average number of cars using Oxford during this five day period, Mr. Polak said that traffic on Oxford Road must be close to 200,000 vehicles annually.

Mayor Beers and the council thanked Mr. Polak, Mr. Ford, and Town Resident Andy Malmgren, who assisted Mr. Polak, for putting together this useful video. Mayor Beers plans to compile a list of state, county, and park officials and forward the CD to

them, along with a letter requesting that a camera be installed at the intersection to capture stop sign runners.

St. Patrick's Day Party

The Town will hold a St. Patrick's Day party on March 17 at the Town Hall.

Glen Echo Park Report

Polly Angelakis, National Park Service Site Manger for Glen Echo Park, reported that there would be a meeting on Feb. 14 on the geothermal test wells. On March 2 there will be a meeting on the storm drains. Ms. Angelakis advised the Town Council that a carpenter had completed repairs to an exhibit case, the Candy Corner, and lighting at the Clara Barton House. She said that the Park will commemorate the 100 year anniversary of Clara Barton's death on April 12. She noted that Glen Echo Park and the Clara Barton House have new Facebook pages. She also commended The Echo on its excellent coverage of the geothermal test wells last month.

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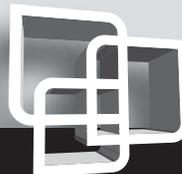


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Approval of Resolutions

The Council approved two resolutions. The first adopted amendments required by the Local Government Insurance Trust, of which the Town is a member. The second approved a contract for Chapel Valley to continue to maintain the Town’s landscaping for another year. The cost of the contract is \$14,950.00

Town Ordinances

Mayor Beers noted that the Town Attorney has put together a compilation of all the Town ordinances. She provided the other members of the Council with copies. Once the council is sure the ordinances are complete, they will pass the compilation as a re-codification and post them on the Town website.

Sangamore Road Federal Facility

Councilmember Nancy Long reported on a meeting she attended on Jan. 12 concerning plans for the Sangamore Road federal facility, formerly known as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. The Defense Intelligence Agency will operate the new facility, which will be known as the Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda. Councilmember Long said she learned, from comments made at the meeting, that new paving at the facility could cause problems with rain run-off for Glen Echo Park. Also, neighbors have expressed concern about a new parking garage planned for the facility because of tree removal, Potomac River views, and traffic issues. A redesign of the parking structure is intended to resolve these issues. Councilmember Long noted there will be several thousand employees at the facility. She believes, therefore, that an increase in traffic in the area seems inevitable.

Conduit Road Fire Board Tax Exempt Status

Council member Mark McCaffrey noted that the Conduit Road Fire Board has obtained section 501(c) (3) tax-exempt charitable status and is looking for volunteers with experience in fund raising.

Local Events

Church of the Redeemer

Illuminare & Slaveya in Concert: “East Meets West”
On Sunday, March 25, at 5:00 p.m., Slaveya, a women’s ensemble specializing in the traditional vocal music of eastern Europe, joins Illuminare for a program of folksongs and other works from Bulgaria and the Republic of Georgia. Titled “East Meets West,” selections by early western European composers will be woven into the program. Reception to follow. Offerings accepted.

Summer Music Camp 2012: Registration now open
The Church of the Redeemer’s sixth annual Summer Music Camp will take place Monday, August 6 – Friday, August 10, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm daily. Designed for children and youth ages 7-15 (campers must have completed first grade), the camp will be staffed by three professional music educators. The program is non-denominational and open to the public. Tuition for the week is \$350. Scholarships are available for those who cannot afford tuition.

For more information and to download registration materials, please visit the music page of the parish website: www.redeemberbethesda.org.

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League of Women Voters

On March 4, 2012, Diane Hibino of the League of Women Voters will discuss “Reaching Consensus in a Polarized Nation” at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation (RRUUC). Hibino will explain how the League of Women Voters selects issues, studies, and reaches a consensus. She will talk about how the League then advocates to elected officials, other government officials, and offices to let them know the League’s position. The discussion begins at 10:25 am and concludes at 11:15 am in the Congregation’s Fireside Room.

Hibino’s presentation is part of RRUUC’s ongoing program, “Coffee, Controversy and Conversation.” It is free and open to the public. River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation is located at 6301 River Road, Bethesda, Md., 20817. Call 301-229-0400 or see www.rruuc.org.

Still Time to Enter the Listen to Your Buds Contest

A contest for young people ages 8 to 18 is currently sponsored by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

To enter the Listen To Your Buds Public Service Announcement Contest, create a 30 or 60 second video or audio announcement that conveys a compelling “safe listening” message to your peers. Winners will receive cash prizes and gifts.

The submission deadline is midnight, March 9, 2012. For information and full entry and prize details go to www.listentoyourbuds.org/Contest.



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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

Lenten Taizé Services
Every Monday in Lent, at 7:30 p.m.

Illuminare & Slaveya in Concert: “East Meets West”
Sunday, March 25, at 5:00 p.m.

For more information about our worship and formation offerings during Lent 2012, please visit the parish website.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
6201 Dunrobbin Drive ▪ Bethesda, MD 20816
301.229.3770 ▪ office.redeemer@verizon.net
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CLASSIFIED ADS

Create a New You. Do something fun for yourself this year. Drop in for belly dance classes every Wed., 6:30 pm, at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. \$10/hr. For more info: email dawnoftheflower@yahoo.com.

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
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AROUND TOWN

Glen Echo town artist and paper engineer **Carol Barton** has designed a series of Pop-Up Occupy Tent cards that you can download from the web and mail to your government representatives with a message on "What Matters to Me." There are five tent designs and a map of the United States that serves as the base for the pop-up tents. Carol and fellow artist and resident **Raya Bodnarchuk** had a "mailing ceremony" at the Glen Echo Post Office on February 6, sending the first models of the cards off to President Obama with personal messages about the importance of arts education. Pictures of them at the post office with postal employees can be seen on the web at www.occupypopup.com, along with the tent pattern downloads and instructions for constructing them.

St Patricks Day Party

Town Hall

Saturday, March 17

Starting at 6:30 pm

Bring a side dish

Participate in the
Limerick Contest

Cleanup and setup volunteers should contact the Town Hall (301-320-4041 or townhall@glenecho.org).

GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

The Following Events Are Free to
All Town Residents

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

Film Fest: The Illusionist
March 10, 8 pm

Folklore Society Greater
Washington Family Dance
March 11, 3pm-5pm

Town Council Meeting
March 12, 8pm

Town's St. Patrick Day Party
March 17, 6:30 pm

Our Favorite Books

Susan Grigsby tells us that without question, *Rising Tide, The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and how it changed America* by John M. Barry is an all-time favorite. The back of the book jacket reads: this is "the brilliantly told story of the great flood, a disaster for millions but the making of a future president and a turning point for the nation. Huey Long, Hubert Hoover, and the loss of over 1 million homes come to life with the pathos and politics of this epic. The author lives in Washington, DC, and New Orleans."

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





Adventure Theatre's 60th Anniversary Year

By Phyllis Fordham

Adventure Theatre has been celebrating their 60th Anniversary Year with a jam-packed season of new and adapted works, performed both here and abroad. An Anniversary Gala and Auction will be held at the Silver Spring Civic Building on Monday, April 16, from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm with a focus on the efforts of past presidents who have made Adventure Theatre a success over the years. The venue will include dinner, entertainment and an auction. Attendance at the gala is expected to attract almost 400 friends and supporters, who will pay \$250 for each ticket to help sustain the work of the organization.

The award winning Adventure Theatre has commissioned new works and cultivated many generations of theater artists and audiences. Works are targeted primarily to children but adults have been known to attend without a child-aged companion. Total attendance in 2011 was almost 64,000, up 71% from the previous year. There were over 40,000 children participating and almost 170 artists were involved. In addition to eight theater offerings a year, Adventure Theatre sponsors a school touring program, a summer camp, workshops for children and an unusual program that benefits both kids and parents called Date Night.

The group was founded in 1951 by a group of women from the Community Arts Association's drama classes. In 1971 they established a permanent home in Glen Echo Park. A puppet theater was started by Adventure Theatre and later spun off as

The Puppet Co., which also has a facility in the Park.

Jumping forward, the year 2011 brought new opportunities as Michael Bobbitt, Producing Artistic Director, led a touring company of four others and ventured off to Singapore and Malaysia with their first International offering. Audiences were sold out for most of the six-week tour with up to three performances a day in some locations. The play, *Just a Dream: The Green Play*, opened at the Singapore Repertory Theater on August 4, 2011 and ran for 5 weeks before moving on to Malaysia. American audiences saw the play first, when more than 50 performances were presented during spring of 2011 in the D.C. area. This year, the spring touring company will repeat the play for classrooms and organizations that may not have seen it in 2011. Bobbitt admitted that he would also be interested in new invitations from overseas even though the tours can be exhausting.

"Partnering is the best way to spread a theatrical company's wings," stated Bobbitt, who is a Glen Echo resident. Testing the partnership theory, the group worked with Montgomery College when they presented Harry Connick Jr.'s musical *The Happy Elf* in the fall of 2010. The show was directed by Tony Award winning director John Rando, who infused an exciting level of Broadway experience into the production.

Back in Glen Echo, the theater will present *Alexander And The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* from March 2 to April 9. It will be followed

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by the world premier of *Five Little Monkeys* that begins on April 27, 2012.

The pace will continue next year with more innovations. Bobbitt stated that next year's offerings will include three new commissions, one based on a classic book, one on a comic strip, and one on songs of an internationally known singer/songwriter, plus a few traditional children's plays. Local writers will contribute the adaptations and new works, thus expanding the children's theater genre.

Some of the funding sources for Adventure Theatre are State and County government, the National Endowment for the Arts, private foundations, corporations, and individuals. For information on the Anniversary Gala or upcoming productions, go to adventuretheatre.org.

Happy Anniversary and safe journeys to Adventure Theatre, whether here or abroad.



Welcome to New Advertiser

We welcome our newest advertiser, Steve's Pet Care. Please see his ad in both the February and March Echo. We always suggest that readers use our advertisers and let them know that we all appreciate their business.

Police Report

Off duty police officers conducted traffic enforcement for the Town at the intersection of University Boulevard and Oxford Road on 1/13 and 1/14. Sixteen citations or warnings were given over a 7-hour period.

**New Plans for NGA Site
on Sangamore Road**

by Julia Wilson

The Western Montgomery County Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) held a community forum Feb. 21 at the Town Hall to discuss the redevelopment plans slated for the old National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) site on Sangamore Rd. across from the Sumner Place Shopping Center. The new installation is being developed by the Corp of Engineers under the auspices of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). This site will ultimately include up to 3,000 employees from a number of federal security agencies. The two smaller sites on MacArthur Blvd also previously occupied by the NGA will be staffed by an additional 800 employees from a medical unit of the Navy, who will be moving in this spring or early summer. These changes represent an increase of approximately 30% of occupants.

As originally proposed, the plans, which were undertaken with very little community involvement, included significant deforestation of the wooded slope along MacArthur Blvd for a parking garage, limited treatment and management of storm water, and increased traffic congestion. In October 2011 a group of residents representing nearby communities began engaging with the Corps of Engineers and the Defense Intelligence Agency. They were joined by The National Park Service, which owns land contig-

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Glen Echo Park Activities

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March 2 – April 9, 2012

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See www.adventuretheatre.org.

The Puppet Co. Playhouse

Mozart's "The Magic Flute"

February 24 – March 11

Rapunzel

March 15 – April 7

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See www.thepuppetco.org.

intersections of MacArthur Blvd. and Clara Barton, MacArthur Blvd. and Sangamore Rd., Sangamore Rd. and Massachusetts Ave., and Maryland Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. The community representatives have formed a Traffic Committee including representatives from DIA and public agencies that will monitor traffic issues and seek remedial action as needed.

The citizen's group and the National Park Service are continuing to work with the DIA to develop an improved storm water management and erosion control plan. As part of this action they are seeking funding to remediate the damage that has already occurred along the outflows from the site, and with the sediment deposited in the C&O Canal from the site.

In April, the Corps and DIA will be submitting a revised site Master Plan to the National Capital Planning Commission. At that time the citizen's group will urge a resolution to these issues of concern.

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uous to the site, as well as representatives of Montgomery County Council President Roger Berliner's office, plus other elected representatives of state and county agencies.

After several meetings over the last three months, the Corps has committed to modify the project in order to reduce the size of the parking garage to no greater than 381' x 248', which would have space for 1800 cars. This change will result in a substantial reduction in the area of deforestation, originally proposed to be over three acres, along the Potomac Palisades. Negotiations are continuing to reduce deforestation to only .2 acres. In addition, new trees will be planted to shield the garage from view from MacArthur Blvd. and neighboring houses.

By downsizing the parking garage, the number of cars coming on to the site will be reduced. However, the citizen's groups are concerned that traffic will increase dramatically along MacArthur Blvd. and Sangamore Road. They have commitments from DIA that incentives will be put in place to ensure that car use is controlled, including a shuttle system and incentives for carpooling, cycling, etc. Also, there will be a traffic study done looking at impact on the

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