

# The Echo

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



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**June 2012**

## **Council Hears of Construction, Comments on Park Traffic**

**By Bill Vincent**

On May 14 the Council met with all members present. There were discussions of several topics, including construction of one resident's addition and the traffic impact of large Park events on the Town.

### ***More Development Anticipated on Princeton***

Plans for an addition to 6001 Princeton Avenue were presented to the Council. Resident Cathy Polak stated that after some recent modifications due to an easement issue, the addition to her house has received County zoning and sediment control approvals. The owner is now waiting for a construction permit; work is expected to start within the next few

weeks. Ms. Polak also said that the contractor plans to place a half dumpster at the end of Princeton on their side of the street during portions of the remodeling. The area is a no parking zone but use of it will allow construction crews to keep the Polak's parking pad as a staging area. The Council approved a motion to allow the placement of the dumpster as requested. Construction is expected to take 4 months. This is the third planned renovation on Princeton Avenue this year. The house at 6100 Princeton is still awaiting a demolition permit from the County so a construction start date is uncertain.

### ***Montgomery County Police Citation Report***

In the future, police will distinguish citations from warnings in their reports. The reports focus primarily on traffic stops at University Boulevard and Oxford Street.

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# THE ECHO

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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.

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**Next Town Council Meeting:**  
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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Washington Gas Services	\$477
Griffith Energy Services	878
Chapel Valley	1246
Waste Management Maryland	4447

CONTINUED from page 1

The effort to secure a stop sign camera has now been postponed. A recent District Court ruling stated that local jurisdictions can no longer receive funds collected by issuing tickets as a result of camera enforcement because the format of the tickets is not consistent with the State's format. An appeal to that decision is expected.

**Town Hall Use**

The schedule for June remains open for the most part. Nancy Long reported that a Hungarian Music group recently requested use of the Town Hall but the request was denied because the size of the group appeared more suited for a larger location such as the Strathmore Music Hall.

**Police Advisory Board**

June 6 is the next Police Advisory Board. Matt Stiglitz will attend.

**Anticipated Budget Items**

The Town Budget Hearing is scheduled for May 21. The town will look into improving street signs and curb striping. Some residents requested hazardous waste removal be included in the trash service and the town will look at options. (The Budget Hearing is discussed on Page 9.)

There was a brief discussion on town wide mosquito management possibilities or arranging special rates with local mosquito control companies for town residents that want to join in requesting the service. Councilman Mark McCaffrey will collect some information regarding the issue.

The town plans to consider rebidding the street maintenance contract in the December time frame.

Options to provide Wi-fi service inside the town hall will be explored.

The council discussed insurance coverage included in the LGIT (Local Government Insurance Trust). Information has been provided on the LGIT website that states, "LGIT is a nonprofit association authorized by state law, wholly owned and managed by its local government members. The Trust's main purpose is to provide joint self-insurance programs or pools for towns, cities and counties in the State of Maryland". Specific topics of discussion centered on whether current coverage included Directors and Officers Liability and coverage, if required, for the off duty police officers that the town uses to monitor the stop sign at Oxford and University.

**Glen Echo Park Report**

Polly Angelikas, National Park Service Site Manager provided a report on Park activities and management issues.

**Management:** Adam Badowski is Acting Deputy Superintendent of the GW Parkway for a year or until the deputy position is filled permanently.

CONTINUED on Page 4

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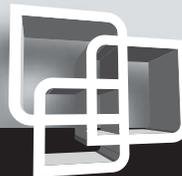


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**Park Traffic:** Family Day was held on April 28 from 11am to 4pm. The Park Service reports that during the event and using guidance from traffic consultants, TRIPTAC, they monitored traffic in and out of the main parking lot. They report that from 11:25am to 3:15pm, the parking lot was full and not self regulating, meaning more cars were arriving than spots were available. For future Family Day events the park has concluded that a shuttle service will be necessary to reduce the impact of area traffic and support more families attending the event. During the discussion the Mayor expressed personal concerns about the utility and need for such large events in the park with a specific concern about the upcoming Washington Folk Festival to be held on June 2 and June 3. The concern specifically centered around the impact on the town of Glen Echo and surrounding residential areas.

**Museum Training for Staff:** Curator Kim Robinson won a scholarship to attend the Victorian Society in America's Summer School in London. She will attend the school from June 30-July 15. The course will strengthen her foundation of knowledge in Victorian decorative arts and architecture and help Ms. Robinson and the museum technician better manage, exhibit, and preserve over 14,000 museum artifacts.

**Oral Histories of Glen Echo: Artists Wanted**  
The Park Service is looking for artists that worked in Glen Echo Park (especially in the 1970's). They would like to interview these artists for the oral history project. If you are an artist or know of one that is willing to participate please contact Zack Gardner at 301-320-1400 or [Zackary\\_gardner@nps.gov](mailto:Zackary_gardner@nps.gov). Council member Long asked if the oral histories that have been collected will be made available to the public either through a brochure overview of the project or access to transcripts online. Ms. Angelakis did not know but will pass along these ideas to the project manager.



## Local Events

### Church of the Redeemer

#### *Strawberry Festival & Silent Auction*

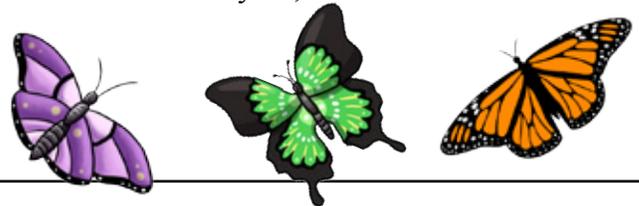
Saturday, June 9, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Church of the Redeemer's 38th Annual Strawberry Festival & Silent Auction is a family-oriented event enjoyed by hundreds of parishioners and neighbors from Bannockburn, Glen Echo, Cabin John, and beyond! Boutique, book and plant sales, children's games. Bid on a vast array of unique services and items at the legendary Silent Auction. Enjoy live music on the lawn.

#### *Summer Music Camp 2012*

Monday, August 6 – Friday, August 10, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm daily

The Church of the Redeemer's sixth annual Summer Music Camp, designed for children and youth ages 7-15 (campers must have completed first grade), will be staffed by Director of Music Tom Smith and award-winning music teachers John Barnes and Laura Petersen. Summer Music Camp includes a wide variety of musical activities, as well crafts and organized outdoor recreation. Lunch is provided daily. Tuition for the week is \$350. This includes a non-refundable fee of \$100 due at registration. Further information is available by writing to [music.redeemer@verizon.net](mailto:music.redeemer@verizon.net) or calling 301-229-3770. Deadline is July 15, 2012.



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CONTINUED from Page 4

**Washington Conservatory**

*Free Concerts*

Saturdays May 26-June 30, 2 pm.

Washington Conservancy begins a series of free concerts for children and adults in Glen Echo Park. Each concert will highlight one instrument, including the piano, french horn, guitar, violin and saxophone.

See [www.washingtonconservatory.org](http://www.washingtonconservatory.org) or call 301-320-2770.

**Clara Barton Community Center**

*Summer Fun Center*

June 28 to August 6, 9 am to 4 pm

For children ages 5 through 12. Fee is \$240 for six weeks. See [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec) or call 301-229-0010

**Potomac Conservancy Events**

**National Trails Day** June 2, 9:00am to 1:30pm. Contact Hannah Larson@potomac.org or call (301)608-1155 x 205

**Medicinal Plant Walk** July 1, 12-1:30pm. River Center at Lock 8. No registration needed.

**Voices of the River: River Stories** with Hayden Matthews July 1, 1:30-2:30pm. River Center at Lock 8. No registration needed.

**Canal Stewards** June 17, at Fletcher’s Cove, July 1 at the River Center, July 22 at Fletcher’s Cove. Contact Hannah Larson@potomac.org. All Canal Stewards clean up occurs between 10am and 12 pm.

**Correction**

The May edition of The Echo stated that University of Maryland students participated in the collection, review and compilation of Town Ordinances. Mayor Beers said that the Town Attorney’s office acted alone in this endeavor.



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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

39th Annual Strawberry Festival & Silent Auction  
 Saturday, June 9, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Summer Music Camp 2012  
 Monday, August 6 – Friday, August 10, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

For more information, please visit our website.

**The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer**  
 6201 Dunrobbin Drive ▪ Bethesda, MD 20816  
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**Bannockburn Nursery School**, a co-op school, is seeking a part-time teacher for the 4 year old program. Please send all resumes to Bannockburn Nursery School, Inc., Attn: Alicia Jennings, 6314 Bannockburn Drive #2, Bethesda, MD 20817, by email to [bannockburnnursery@yahoo.com](mailto:bannockburnnursery@yahoo.com), or by fax to (301)320-6452. For additional information on qualifications, contact Angie Zeidenberg at [azeidenberg@verizon.net](mailto:azeidenberg@verizon.net).

*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.*

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AROUND TOWN

**Tom Helf** is looking forward to his upcoming gig at the well-regarded D.C. jazz club, Blues Alley on Sunday June 3. The Cravin' Dogs will play two shows, at 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm, featuring two totally different sets. Tom says that the food is good and we know he'd love to see you there. Blues Alley is located in Georgetown at 1073 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., just below M Street; 202-337-4141; for tickets and more information visit Blues Alley's website: [www.bluesalley.com](http://www.bluesalley.com).

**Holly and Osamu Shimizu's** fabulous garden will be on the Private Gardens of Bethesda Tour-2012 on Saturday, June 2. The tour is sponsored by Brookside Gardens, and the hub garden is McCrillis Gardens, which is a satellite property of Brookside. It is located at 6910 Greentree Road Bethesda, MD 20817 (301) 962-1400. The tour of up to eight gardens will occur between 10am and 4pm. and tickets are available for one or more of the sites. For further information and ticket details, go to [www.Brooksidegardens.org](http://www.Brooksidegardens.org).

*Bethesda Magazine* recently offered two delightful sketches about Town residents. **Raya Bodnarchuk** and **Michael Bobbitt** were both featured in the May/June issue of the magazine with tales of their respective art. Peek into page 46 and page 132 to read about our talented sculptor and producer/director.

Vassar Circle just got a little more crowded! **Aran Peel Bragan** was born on May 12. Weighing 7 pounds 15 ounces and measuring 21 inches long, Aran is a strong and healthy baby boy. Be on the lookout for parents **Allison and Tim** pushing him around town in an orange stroller and say hello to parents and baby. Allison and Tim are new to Vassar Circle and we hope to know more about them soon.

## GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

The Following Events Are Free to  
All Town Residents

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

Town Ordinance Review  
(this is a special session)  
June 4, 2012 8 pm

Town Council Meeting  
June 11, 8 pm

Town Picnic  
July 15, 5 pm-7 pm

### Police Report

Off duty police officers monitored stop sign compliance at University and Oxford and issued 59 warnings and 17 citations between April 12 and May 14. This figure is significantly higher than the warning/citations issued during the previous month. Warnings and citations are now separately reported.

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## Farewell

*The Echo* is sorry to see Anna, Gabi, Lili, and Julie Bayer move to Derwood. They have been active Town residents who often volunteered to photograph Town events. And they were dedicated distributors of *The Echo* each month. Anna hosted ladies night the week that she was moving and served a wide variety of treats, many of which she made herself. She said they will come back to take photos from time to time; we hope they will come back to take photos or just to visit.

## LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*Ladies Night  
on Wednesday,  
June 13, at 8 pm.  
At the home of  
Jane Stevenson  
6106 Yale Avenue  
RSVP: 301-229-3578*

## Our Favorite Books

Carlotta Anderson told us that she is “quite taken with books about explorers or adventurers who push human survival...”. For Carlotta, one of those books is *Into Africa: The Epic Adventures of Stanley and Livingston* by Martin Dugard. She found that “the unfathomable sufferings of Stanley, a reporter, traveling through East Africa in his indomitable effort to find Livingstone are transfixing...truly a book you cannot put down.”

## Ex-Mayor’s Son Visits After Decades Away

by Carlotta Anderson

Mark S. Hertstein, who left Glen Echo more than forty years ago for a career as a naval officer, visited town May 5 prior to the fiftieth reunion for graduates of Little Flower School that was held on that day. He is the son of Wilbur S. Hertstein, who served as mayor here from 1950-60.

Mayor Hertstein involved the town in major civil defense preparations at the height of the Cold War. As one exercise in 1957, he led 75 cars in a mock mass evacuation as far as Westmoreland Circle to demonstrate the community’s readiness in case of attack.

Mark graduated from American University and then served 23 years as a naval officer, retiring as a Lt. Commander. He currently lives with his wife Margaret in Pittsburg, California and has four children and five grandchildren.

His father died in 1976, the same day he was vaccinated for swine flu. His mother died in 1978.

Mark remembers few current residents but would like to hear from any who remember him. He expected to see Jose Espinosa, who lived at 13 Vassar Circle, at the Little Flower reunion. You can reach Mark at [hertstein@earthlink.com](mailto:hertstein@earthlink.com) or (925) 424-5227.

*Ed note: Mr. Hertstein walked through town asking who he might speak with about life in Glen Echo when he was a boy. A number of residents suggested that he stop to see Carlotta Anderson who would likely possess a lot of the Town’s memories.*

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## Town To Raise Real Estate Taxes by 0.4¢ Per \$100 of Assessed Value

By Rex Rhein

At the May 21 budget meeting, the Town Council approved a **new tax rate** of 13.4¢ per \$100 of assessed value – an increase of 0.4¢/\$100—to maintain \$83,000 in real estate tax revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. The increase is necessary because the assessed value of homes in Glen Echo has dropped by about \$3 million, explained Mayor Debbie Beers.

Even with this increase, the approved **budget deficit** will be \$67,173, or nearly \$20,000 more than the Council accepted last year. But the expectation of a growing budget deficit can be misleading according to council members because anticipated expenditures are often far off the mark. For example, actual Town expenditures as of May 21 were \$104,423 less than budgeted for fiscal 2012, according to figures reported by Clerk-Treasurer Nicole Fraser. Over the past year, the town’s **account balance** has grown from \$355,223 to \$367,652.

As approved by the Council, **total expenditures** are estimated at \$294,514, compared with **total anticipated income** of \$227,341.

### Revenue

Besides **real estate tax** revenue, described above, **personal property taxes**, which brought in \$11,474 as of May 21, are anticipated in fiscal 2013 to contribute \$10,200, of which \$7,700 would be from taxes on corporate property. The Town is retaining the existing personal property tax rate of 80¢ per \$100.

Revenue expected from the Town’s share of **state income tax**—\$70,000—is unchanged from last year.

Revenue from Glen Echo’s share of the **state highway fund** is expected to drop from the \$4,465 budgeted for fiscal 2012 to just \$2,901 this year. “It’s way down from \$15,000 [the Town received] in some years,” Mayor Beers said.

The Town had received \$18,579 in **county revenue**

sharing as of May 21, or approximately what was budgeted for 2012. Mayor Beers said this should rise to \$20,762 in fiscal 2013, although “it doesn’t begin to reimburse what we’ve spent” for services – such as trash collection – that the Town handles itself rather than having the County do it. Councilman Steve Matney said that the Maryland Municipal League is negotiating to get release of more funds on county revenue sharing and/or state highway funds.

Because bank interest is so low, the Town expects to earn a modest \$500 from its account balance during the year. In previous years, the Town could expect as much as \$10,000 in revenue from **interest payments**.

The other major revenue item in the 2013 budget is \$27,300 from **Post Office rental**, which is \$2,040 less than in 2012. “We gave them a break on rent when we renegotiated,” Mayor Beers explained. **Town Hall rental income** is expected to remain at \$2,500, as budgeted for 2012 (although actual rental

CONTINUED on Page 10

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CONTINUED from page 9

income, as of May 21, exceeded that by \$500).

The Irish Inn at Glen Echo will continue to pay \$3,600 for rental of its **parking lot** space, the same as the last few years. Mayor Beers said she considered the fact that the Inn does not charge for parking there to be “a service to the Town”, as it keeps traffic down in the rest of Glen Echo.

**Franchise income** from the cable company that offers its services to Town residents is expected to be \$1,200 higher than the \$1,800 budgeted in previous years. As of May 21, the Town collected \$3,819 in franchise income, according to the Clerk-Treasurer.

Revenue from **paid ads in The Echo**—\$1,914 collected as of May 21—was on target to achieve the \$2,000 budgeted for 2012. The same amount is anticipated in 2013. **Subscription income**—\$144 collected by May 21—exceeded the \$60 budgeted for 2012. It remains at \$60 for 2013.

By May 21, the Town had received \$1,249 in “**uncategorized income**,” which was more than the \$1,000 expected in the 2012 budget. Clerk-Treasurer Fraser said the money is for reimbursement for an energy efficient grant from the State. The Council again expects \$1,000 for fiscal 2013.

### Expenditures

The largest single expense in the budget—\$60,000, which is \$10,000 more than last year—is for **refuse collection and recycling**. Mayor Beers said the Town will propose adding the collection of hazardous waste to the contract. There was also discussion of a proposal to limit refuse collection to one day a week rather than two, although no action was taken on the issue.

The next largest item in the fiscal 2013 budget is the Town’s \$27,314 **payroll** expenditure, which will increase 3.6% over fiscal 2012. In addition, the item listed as **auditing and accounting** was budgeted at \$7,500, up from \$6,000.

For **legal fees**, the Council again budgeted \$20,000. As of May 21, legal fees had cost the Town \$14,578. The Council also added \$4,500 to the \$500 previously budgeted for **other professional services**. Councilman Matney explained that outside profes-

sionals must be retained to go over building permits issued by the Town, even though the County also issues building permits for the same work. The work is more about zoning interpretation rather than building permit issuance, Ms. Fraser noted.

The Council also reauthorized \$20,000 for **landscaping**, which cost the Town \$18,059 as of May 21. The contract may be renegotiated next year, Mayor Beers said.

As it did in fiscal 2012, the Council again approved \$20,000 for **street paving**, and 15,000 for **sidewalk repair**. No money was spent for either item as of May 21. In addition, the Council again budgeted \$15,000 for **other capital improvements**, which primarily includes replacing street signs. As of May 21, the Town spent \$2,912. And \$2,000 was again budgeted for repaving the **Town Hall parking lot**. As of May 21, \$632 was spent.

As in previous years, \$5,000 has been set aside to pay for **insurance and bonds** (both the mayor and clerk-treasurer are bonded). As of May 21, \$2,362 has been spent for this item.

No money was spent during fiscal 2012 for **snow plowing**, although \$3,000 was budgeted. The same amount is budgeted for fiscal 2013. The **street sweeping** budget remains at \$5,000, although, as of May 21, the contractor had not charged for last year’s work. As of May 21, \$10,214 was spent for **streetlights**; the budget for this item remains at \$12,000.

Money for **Town Hall maintenance** is being increased from \$5,000 to \$9,000, primarily to pay for refinishing the wood floors on the second floor. As of May 21, the Town spent \$14,051 for Town Hall maintenance, most of it to replace the motors on the town hall elevator doors. (Ms. Fraser explained that someone was trapped inside the elevator because the motors were not working.) Another \$20,000 was set aside for **Town Hall improvements**, with money aimed at replacing electrical wiring and purchasing a new refrigerator for the second floor. As of May 21, \$1,367 was spent for Town Hall improvements.

Fixed operating expenses during fiscal 2013 include \$2,500 for **electricity**, \$4,000 for **heating**, and \$400 for **water**, the same as for last year; and \$2,300

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for **telephone**, DSL and fax lines, a \$100 increase over fiscal 2012.

The budget includes \$5,000 for **surveys of public spaces**, the same as for fiscal 2012, although nothing was spent for this item as of May 21.

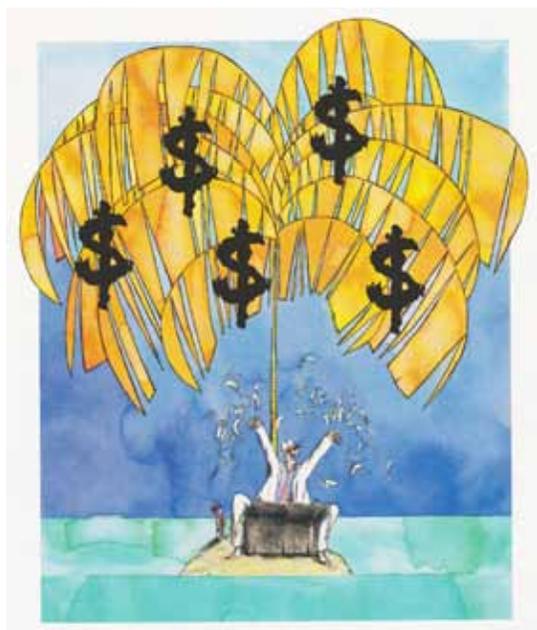
The budget for **recreation**, which includes the Annual Holiday Breakfast and Town Picnic, is again \$6,000. As of May 21, the Town spent \$4,777 for recreational events. **The Council decided that this year's Town Picnic will be held on Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:00 pm.**

The amount budgeted for **community contributions** will remain at \$4,000. As of May 21, the Town gave \$3,500 to the Glen Echo Park and Adventure Theater. The Town publication, **The Echo**, is budgeted at \$3,500, the same as for fiscal 2012. As of May 21, \$2,926 was spent to support The Echo.

### **Public comment**

As she did at last year's budget hearing, Gloria Levin proposed that a fuller explanation of each item be provided to Town residents prior to the hearing. Mayor Beers responded that other Town residents appear satisfied with the current explanations, the major ones contained in her Notice of Budget Hearing issued several weeks before the budget hearing.

After the hearing, the Council convened in official session and approved the budget unanimously.



## **Poor Planning**

**Phyllis Fordham**

Last year, I was longing for beaches; then November was here. We used to “just do it” year after year—now—our summers slip slyly away. In March, we are longing to go—then one day the summer is spent. Beach plans got swamped by new distractions; June computer camps, July airfares, August crowds and sky-high cottage rates. Even early September slipped by when pre-school intervened.

We know what it means to be stretched on the sand. We've seen the child-cousins fold into each other like waves. The grownups take turns grilling fish and beach corn. Kids seldom say “no” to their parents that week. They fly kites on the beach, play cards on the porch, fish together one day, surf the waves on one more. With 16 years between oldest and youngest you might ask yourself, why does this work? The answer rests in the genes, I suppose, not the far-away places they live. California, Ohio, Maryland too, meet up with the Rockies' cultural ways. At the beach, the teens gambol with worshipping toddlers who gleefully wake to find “new friends” still there.

Reaching the beach never happened last year, but reaching my family did. We're committed this summer; we missed it so much. We've agreed to a time, a small window in June. We've searched better airfares; camp dates have been moved.

What we learned from last year is that we're grabbing a “moment”. And we'll remember those moments; exuberant, elated, ecstatic, ethereal moments, just as those we found other years at the beach.



## Glen Echo Park Activities

### Washington Folk Festival

June 2-3

See [www.fsgw.org](http://www.fsgw.org) or call 301-634-2222

### The Puppet Co.

*Goldilocks*

June 8 - July 15

See [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org)

or call 301-634-5380

### Adventure Theatre

*If You Give a Moose a Muffin*

June 3 - September 22

See [www.adventuretheatre.org](http://www.adventuretheatre.org)

or call 301-634-2270

### An Evening With the Arts

*Benefit Concert for Children's Inn at NIH by the Washington Conservatory of Music*

Bumper Car Pavilion

June 8, 6:30 - 9 pm

Tickets at [www.niharts.com](http://www.niharts.com)

### Washington Conservatory of Music

*Carousel Concerts*

June 9, 16, 23, 30, 2 pm

See [www.washingtonconservancy.org](http://www.washingtonconservancy.org)

or call 301-320-2770

### Summer Concert Series

Bumper Car Pavilion

*Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra*

June 14, 7:30 pm

*Clarence "the Bluesman" Turner and His Blues Band*

June 28, 7:30 pm

See [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or call 301-634-2222

### Heritage Days at Glen Echo Park

*Craft Activities for Kids*

Spanish Ballroom Lobby

June 23, 12 - 3pm; June 24, 1 - 3 pm

*229th Army Band's Old Line Brass Quintet*

Spanish Ballroom

June 23, 1:00 pm

*Washington Revels Heritage Voices and Roustabout Band*

Spanish Ballroom

June 24, 1:00 pm

*Washington Revels Heritage Voices and Roustabout Band*

Washington Conservatory of Music Recital Room

June 24, 2:30 pm

See [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or call 301-634-2222

