

The Echo

The Town of GREEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



August 2012

Town Council Focuses on Storm Outages

By Jocelyn Khalifa

On July 9, just a few days after power was restored to all residents, the Town Council met for a regularly scheduled meeting. The topic soon turned to Pepco's performance after storm damage left the town without power for a week in some cases.

Mayor Beers said she was in communication with Pepco throughout the storm and that she has sent e-mails to many State officials. She intends to write to the Public Service Commission about storm related issues and also the proposed rate increase. Ms. Beers strongly advised that "people have to call all the time" when power is lost in the future. She said, "Pepco pays attention to squeaky wheels."

The Mayor also noted that the line that was taken

down by tree branches on Yale Avenue was an un-insulated copper wire that needed to be replaced in any event. She is concerned that Pepco has not replaced all of these old wires.

Residents' Requests

Town resident Ellen Leary requested use of Town Hall on July 28 to house volunteers who will use their cell phones to make calls for the Obama campaign. The Mayor and Council Members all approved her request since town residents can use town hall up to three times a year for personal use.

Susan Grigsby said that she had concerns about a massive mosquito spray in town that she read about in *The Echo*. Her concern is for the adverse effect on songbirds as well as trees and plants. (*Ed. note: The Echo reported in the June issue that "there was a brief discussion on town wide mosquito management possibilities or arranging special rates with local*

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THE ECHO

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www.glenecho.org

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

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Waste Management	\$4,320.68
FSM Inc (Curb Striping)	\$3,800.00
Knopf & Brown	\$3,620.14
Peyton's Tree Service	12,512.50*

* Annual Payment

CONTINUED from page 1

mosquito control companies for town residents that want to join in requesting the service. Councilmember Mark McCaffrey will collect some information regarding the issue." No other reference to Mosquito control has appeared in The Echo since that statement.) The Mayor told Ms. Grigsby that a mosquito spray has been discussed by a group of neighbors but is not going to be enacted by the Town.

Glen Echo Park Report

Site manager, Polly Angelakis reported that the geothermal system for Clara Barton National Historic Site has been tabled for now. The house is too poorly insulated and too many wells would have to be dug to keep the structure at a constant temperature. Instead the National Park Service (NPS) will seek funds to replace the roof (to improve insulation and stop leaks in the house) and improve the fire suppression system. An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be done that will cover both of these projects. The geothermal system will be revisited at a much later date.

The NPS met with Montgomery County to review plans for the Shared Use Path. The next step is to do archeological testing to make sure there are no artifacts in the area of the proposed path (on NPS land) and to continue with the review of the EA (for NPS land).

The free NPS two-day Junior Ranger camps have filled up for the summer. Campers will explore both Clara Barton and Glen Echo Park and take a field trip to Antietam in honor of the 150th Anniversary of that battle.

The After-Action meeting for the Folk Festival

hasn't been scheduled yet due to preparation for the July 4 activities, lack of electricity in the regional office, and storm damage cleanup. (The regional office had power restored on Friday, July 6). The Town will be notified as soon as the WFF meeting is scheduled.

Glen Echo Park and the Clara Barton site lost power during the June 29 derecho. Both sites were fully operational as of 9:30 AM, Tuesday, July 3. One large tree limb fell through the canvas roof at Living Classrooms. Another tree fell in the picnic area, just missing the Bumper Car Pavilion. A lamp-post in the main lot also fell over. The parkway tree and maintenance crews responded and removed all hazards. Parkway and site staff were busy with the storm cleanup and July 4 prep most of the previous week.

Town Hall Maintenance

Regarding Town Hall Maintenance, the Council said the floors will be refinished on July 17 and 24.



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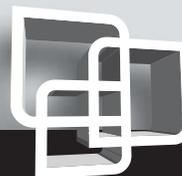


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Local Events

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Events

Mule Drawn Barge Rides

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
See www.NPS.org or call 301-767-3714

Launch Boat Interpretive Program

Begins in Mid June
1057 Thomas Jefferson Street, Washington D.C.
See www.NPS.org or call 301-582-0813

Potomac Conservancy Events

For information, contact Anne Sundermann at sundermann@potomac.org or 301-608-1188 x208.

Canal Steward at the River Center

Sunday, August 19, 10 am – 12 pm
River Center at Lock 8
Clean up the lockhouse area and the nearby towpath. This cleanup is open to all ages. This event is part of the National Park Service’s Canal Stewards program, engaging volunteers to become long-term caretakers of a site within the C & O Canal National Historical Park.

Tree Identification Walk

Sunday, August 19, 12 – 1:30 pm
River Center at Lock 8
Afternoon walk with tree expert Laura Miller who will take participants on a walk along the Potomac River and help identify local trees found throughout the Potomac region. No registration is necessary

Wilderness 101

Sunday, August 19, 1:30 – 2:30 pm
River Center at Lock 8
Potomac Conservancy and The Center for Wilderness Safety invite all outdoor enthusiasts to join them for a FREE one-hour outdoor safety class. Topics will include lightning safety, ticks, first aid kits, and more! No registration is necessary

Canal Stewards at Fletcher’s Cove

Sunday, August 26, 10 am – 12 pm
Boathouse at Fletcher’s Cove

Clean up the picnic area and surrounding trails. This cleanup is open to all ages, and we’ll provide all the necessary supplies - just bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and casual clothing. No registration is necessary and all ages are welcome.

Voices of the River: Potomac Palette

Sunday, September 9, 12 pm – 2 pm
River Center at Lock 8
Come to an art exhibit at the River Center, featuring the work of local artists Adnan Alsaffar, Mimi Betz, Nan Fuhrman, and Hushang Tohidloo. Judy Welles, author of *Cabin John, Legends and Life of an Uncommon Place*, will tell the stories of the intriguing name and history of the community by the Potomac River and the C&O canal.

Deterring Crime

Dear Editor,

Regarding the recent crime spree in town, I remembered when we had a similar spree several years ago and the police came to the Town Hall to talk to us about local crime prevention.

They advised that the cheapest and most effective crime prevention tactic around our homes is to put on the porch lights from dusk to dawn. I have done that for years. I think the whole town would benefit from more porch lights being on in the dark and those thieves would stay away from our town.

Eleanor Balaban
Glen Echo

Missed WM Pickups

The next time you have a missed pickup with your trash or yard waste, check the town website at www.glenecho.org. Under **Town Government**, you’ll find complete information on what to do: the phone number to call, our town account number, and the name of our representative at Waste Management. You should be able to get your pickup rescheduled immediately.

Real Estate Report

44 Wellesley Circle	\$995,000	For Sale
12 Wellesley Circle	\$599,000	Contract
22 Wellesley Circle	\$795,000	Contract
6108 Princeton Ave	\$807,500	Sold
6010 Princeton Ave	\$775,000	Sold

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Thefts from Cars

There were two car robberies on University Avenue when owners inadvertently left their cars unlocked. Please remember to lock cars and houses. Reportedly, nothing of great value was taken but the incidents are unnerving to the owners of vehicles.

Welcome Newcomers

Beth Rockwell

Jordan Lieberman and his two children, Eli, age 8 as of July, and Mila, age 3, joined the Glen Echo community in April when he bought the yellow Victorian at 6010 Princeton Avenue. The Lieberman's moved from D.C., just off MacArthur and Cathedral near The Boathouse restaurant. Jordan had been looking in the Glen Echo area for a few years, taking Saturday drives through the neighborhoods. "I got lucky", he said of his Princeton Avenue find. He is very interested in learning about the town's history.

Originally from the Jersey shore, where his prom date "looked just like Snooki" of MTV fame, Jordan went to the University of Pennsylvania undergrad and Columbia University where he received his graduate degree in Public Administration. He has worked actively on campaigns since then, most notably, Senator Arlen Specter's. Since moving to D.C. in 2002, Jordan has worked as a consultant to Campaign Grid and, from 2006 to 2010, published the trade magazine *Campaign and Elections*. He has had three political columns published in *Playboy* magazine.

Eli currently attends the Key School in D.C. and Mila is in pre-school at P Street Kids in Georgetown. Eli is very interested in guitar and Jordan is looking into lessons at Glen Echo. Eli was delighted to learn that his house was built from a tree that dated back to Abe Lincoln's time. Mila is very serious but loves a particular white and gray stallion on the Glen Echo carousel. The kids have found friends in the neighborhood already, particularly Katie Stiglitz.

Joining the Liebermans is Clarence, a large, 11 year old rescue dog. "The people at the shelter told me he was a [few week old] mini-lab. He's a Schnauzer and Chow mix." Clarence has a Facebook page and has 100 friends, give or take.

Glen Echo looks forward getting to know the Liebermans.



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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., 7:30 pm-8:30 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.



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Police Report

Between June 11 and July 9, off-duty police officers monitored stop sign compliance at University and Oxford and issued 35 warnings and 8 citations. The surveillance occurred on three weekday mornings when there was student drop-off for summer camps. There was no coverage on June 30 because officers were directing traffic at intersections with power outages.

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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*Ladies Night
on Tuesday,
August 21, at 8 pm.
At the home of
Sally McGunnigle
15 Vassar Circle
RSVP: 301-320-3755*

GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

The Following Events Are Free to
All Town Residents

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

C&O Canal Association Board
Meeting
August 5, 1 pm

Town Council Meeting
August 13, 8 pm

Town Ordinance Review
August 20, 8 pm

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Stephen Fessenden

Susan Grigsby reported that Stephen Fessenden, who was raised in the house at 6005 Bryn Mawr, passed away on October 25, 2011. His wife, Vivien, provided Susan with notice of his death.

The Echo in Color

The Echo is online at www.glenecho.org, where you can see the graphics in color. You can also access past newspapers. If you would prefer to access your newspaper online rather than receive a paper copy, please contact TheEchoEditor@gmail.com.

Picnic in the Rain

Organizers wrung their hands as rainclouds loomed to the North and West, threatening the Town Picnic held on July 15. It was Councilmember Steve Matney who convinced Nicole Fraser, the Town Clerk, that it was safer and wiser to set up tables inside instead of holding onto hope that the storm would pass or, at least, pause until after 7 pm, the published time for close of festivities.

Once the decision was made, volunteers helped to carry out changes for the slight change of venue. Setup and cleanup were provided by Bernie Edelman, Matt Stiglitz, Maire and Sarah Hewitt, Andrea and Steve Matney, Harley and Nora Feldbaum, Catherine Hathaway, Mark McCaffrey, Constance and Dan Macy, David Greenberg, Ben Malmgren, and Bram Wilson.

Nicole was relieved once the decision was made. As she later stated, "I'm sure tons of other people helped especially during the grab to move everything upstairs but I can't remember everyone in the melee.

Could you please send my thanks to everyone that cooperated to move the whole picnic upstairs due to the weather?" Yes, Nicole, The Echo will send your message.

So, thanks to all who helped, including those who brought great food to complement the fajitas supplied by the Town. About 80 people attended. Thanks too, to Nicole Fraser, the Town Clerk, for pulling off another successful event.

Despite weather threats, the water slide accommodated lots of slippery sliders who let nothing interrupt their early evening frolic. The food supplied by the Town, augmented by dishes that attendees brought to share was the perfect amount. An absence of leftovers testified to both the quality and right sizing of all contributions to the affair.



Niki Lange climbs out of the water slide



Ben Malmgren and Maddox Feldbaum slide home.



Sasha Lange splashes to a finish.



Cassidy Wolf has a happy landing.



Caroline Koonce is helped by mom Jeanette.





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 August 2012 at
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■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist (said)	8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist with Hymns	10:30 a.m.
Summer Church School	10:30 a.m.

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PSC Wants to Hear From You

The Public Service Commission will be hosting a public hearing as part of the official record of the June 29 storm (Case #9298). The public hearing will take place on **August 7 at 7:00 PM**, at the Council Office Building in Rockville in the 3rd Floor Hearing Room. (100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville MD 20850).

If you wish to speak at the public hearing, you need only attend the meeting and sign up to speak on the sign-in sheets that will be provided. If you are unable to attend or wish to submit testimony before the hearing, you may send your testimony to:

David J. Collins, Executive Secretary
Maryland Public Service Commission
Case #9298
6 Saint Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806



photo by Claire Kelly

Tree limbs block the bike path.



photo by Dan Macy

photo by Dan Macy

Tree branches cover a car on Benalder Drive.

Petition

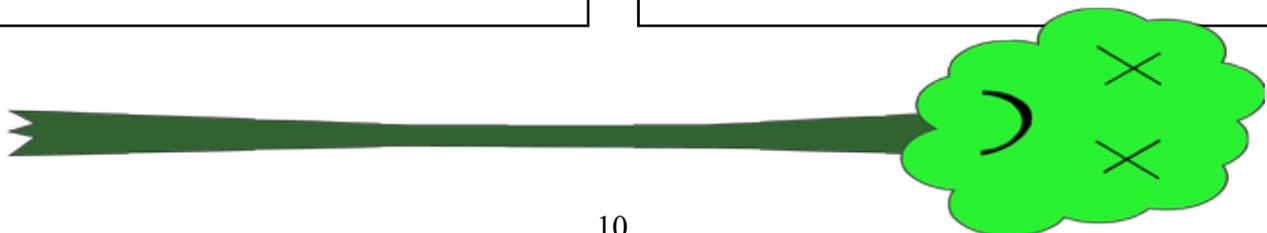
You may want to make your voice heard in other ways. Senator Brian Frosh has initiated a petition at www.change.org/petitions/fine-pepco-100-million-for-power-failure.

WiFi at the Town Hall

For those who don't need a cell phone data plan but do need WiFi during an outage, bring your laptop or tablet to the Town Hall and use our community WiFi. The password will be made available when you arrive.

Where To Buy Ice

Talberts at 5234 River Road (two doors down from American Plant) is a great source of ice in bags up to 40 pounds, as well as dry ice in variable quantities. The Giant also carries ice in bags up to 16 pounds.



Pepco Fails to Garner Sympathy

Phyllis Fordham

It was abrupt; it was powerful; it was not anticipated. The derecho took us by surprise. But Pepco’s response, according to lawmakers, residents, and even regulators was not prompt, was definitely not strong but was, sadly, anticipated.

Representatives from the US Senate, (Barbara Mikulski), The Congress (Chris Van Hollen), The State Senate (Brian Frosh) and too many others to mention weighed in on Pepco’s faults. Glen Echo’s Mayor said she would write to the Public Service Commission and reminded residents to call Pepco whenever power is out, not to rely on others to do so.

Senator Frosh wrote:

“I believe that Pepco’s failure to provide reliable electric service has its roots in a corporate strategy that was born in the wake of electric utility deregulation (which, incidentally, I fought to prevent). It slashed its maintenance efforts and declined to invest in infrastructure. We have suffered the consequences over and over. In winter and summer. In storms and in calm.

Service is interrupted repeatedly and for unconscionably long periods. Pepco’s communications are inaccurate and ineffective. It cannot predict when service will be restored. Its telephone, mobile application and internet information make it appear that it is incapable of keeping track of who has power and who does not.

Two years ago the General Assembly passed legislation that required the Public Service Commission to set reliability standards for electric utilities, and it authorized the PSC to impose fines of \$25,000 per customer, per day upon utilities that failed to meet the standards. These fines cannot be passed on to ratepayers.

Last year the PSC fined Pepco \$1 million, touting it as the biggest fine in its history. That penalty was totally inadequate – mere pocket change for Pepco, which paid more than \$240 million in dividends last year.

Senator Jim Rosapepe (D – Prince Georges County) and I have written to the PSC urging it to

impose significant fines upon Pepco for its terrible performance this month. We’ve asked the PSC to fine Pepco more than \$100 million, which is still less than 1% of what it could impose under the authority it now has.

The PSC should use the fine, in part, to fund a “Surge” program – one that will train and utilize citizens capable of helping dig out of the messes that Pepco can’t seem to clean up on its own. There are thousands of retired utility workers, military, law enforcement, fire and rescue veterans and others who could help in times of emergency.”

County Council President Roger Berliner held a PEPCO Debriefing regarding the outages at the Council Office Building on Thursday, July 19, 2012. It was reported in the Washington Post that Pepco President Thomas Graham told the assembled crowd that it was unreasonable for residents to be upset about losing power. He later said he meant to say it was not unreasonable.

CONTINUED on Page 12



photo by Harley Feldbaum

Yale Ave. is blocked when a tree downs the power lines.



photo by Debbie Beers

Glen Echo Park lost a large oak.

Glen Echo Park Activities

The Puppet Co.

Snow White and the 7 Dwarves

July 21-Sept. 2

Tiny Tots

August 4-August 26, 10 am

See www.thepuppetco.org

or call 301-634-5380

Adventure Theatre

If You Give a Moose a Muffin

June 22 - September 2

See www.adventuretheatre.org

or call 301-634-2270

Summer Concert Series

Bumper Car Pavilion

United States Navy Band "Cruisers"

Thursday, August 9 - starting at 7:30pm

Hot Society Orchestra of Washington

Thursday, August 23 - starting at 7:30pm

See www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222

CONTINUED from page 11

Pepco also ran several large ads in the Post in July, congratulating itself on restoring power after the storm.

It is instructive to peruse articles about Pepco at The Washington Post.com. Michael Landis reported that Pepco officials said the destructive weather appeared swiftly, "effectively depriving Pepco the opportunity to engage in advanced planning to bring large numbers of outside resources to the Pepco service territory." That must explain why we saw few or no trucks from other power companies until 3 days after the storm, and why Pepco was cited in a Van Hollen report on the topic as being much less efficient than Dominion Power.

Did we mention, though? The Landis article appeared on August 31, 2010.

Pepco did not get what it asked for in a rate increase. They can appeal of course. Fines have not yet been determined.

Graham attempted to retract his statement at the public hearing after loud protests from the audience. Victor Zapana, reporter for the Washington Post, wrote that Graham said he "needed a mulligan" when he tried to restate his position.

Mr. Graham has been playing too much golf.

Election Judges Needed

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is currently seeking registered voters to serve as Election Judges for the Presidential General Election on November 6, 2012. Please call the Board office at 240-777-8577 or send an email to JessicaJones@montgomerycountymd.gov for additional information and an application.

In addition, Nicole Fraser, Town Clerk, can supply any interested parties with a position description and application form. You may contact her by sending an email to townhall@glenecho.org.

Recycling Reminders

Constance Macy

Absolutely no plastic bags of any kind or Styrofoam are accepted for recycling.

Plastic bags (clean) go to the grocery store for recycling.

Boxes must be broken down or flattened and as much tape/plastic windows removed as possible.