

# The Echo

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



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**October 2012**

## **Council Told of Spring Start for MacArthur Bikeway Project**

**By Bonnie Whyte**

The middle portion of the MacArthur bikeway project, from Oberlin Avenue to 495, has been funded and these plans were presented to the Town Council and many residents at the September 10 Council meeting. The Bikeway Project is scheduled to begin in Spring 2013 according to representatives from Montgomery County's Department of Transportation (DOT). The complex project to install a separate bike lane in both directions from the District Line to Great Falls has been discussed for nearly a decade. Many questions were posed to the three DOT officials, Division Chief Bruce Johnston, Transportation Planning & Design Chief Yasamin Esmali, and retiring Project Manager Gary Johnson, but few great answers were provided.

The group brought detailed architectural plans to the meeting and promised copies to the Town. The overall plan is to improve the "shared use" bike path that currently exists. A minimum five-foot wide greenspace would be added between the shared use path and the newly built three-foot dedicated bike paths on both sides of MacArthur Blvd. Three-foot shoulders would be added to the north and south sides of MacArthur Blvd by adding two feet on each shoulder and narrowing the main road from eleven to ten foot lanes in each direction. Due to the water conduit under the road, the Army Corps of Engineers, owners of the road, would not approve anything larger.

DOT is still working with Glen Echo Park to conduct the environmental assessments to allow reconstruction of the trolley bridge to accommodate a new off-MacArthur shared-use bike path from Oxford to the upper parking lot of the park. The pumping

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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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|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Waste Management | \$4438 |
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| King Floors      | \$1741 |

CONTINUED from page 1

station turnaround and the narrow path and bus stop will remain the same. Residents stressed the need for better safety poles to be inserted between the street and the path as it is a crowded and very difficult corner for pedestrians, bikers and autos. Barriers will be provided wherever there is less than five feet of grass between shoulder/bike lane and shared-use path.

The project will be advertised for bids this fall, with construction beginning at the I-495 end in spring 2013. Completion is expected winter/spring 2015 at the Glen Echo end. Work hours will be from 7 am to 5 pm with lane closures from 9 am to 3 pm. Some work may be done on weekends. Work areas will be limited to 500 feet. The project will be constructed in four phases:

1. Construct the green space along with any retaining walls
2. Construct the bike path so bicyclists can use it during the roadway construction
3. Construct the southeast roadway widening
4. Construct the northwest roadway widening

Residents expressed a number of concerns about the project. Overall, the officials agreed that the plans were not perfect, but the best achievable with the conduit and geographic restrictions. Residents questioned the overall goal and expense to provide a dedicated bike path for the commuting and fast cyclists as the road is crowded already. The bike path will not be used by the packs of cyclists on weekends. There will be little or no improvement to the bus stop area, nor to crosswalks on MacArthur, nor to the Cabin John Bridge where even the "bikers must dismount" sign has been removed. Planners agreed to install a new sign. Planners were urged to mark the town entrances clearly, as well as the turns off the parkway where cars have been known to drive onto the shared

bike path. Town residents will be able to review the plans when the DOT provides copies. Some information can be found at <http://bit.ly/SVjld5>.

*Editors Note: The MacArthur Boulevard project has been the subject of three public hearings starting in 2003. The plan's alignment has not changed since 2008. The Town submitted a list of 19 questions to traffic engineers prior to the September Council meeting. Copies of the questions and their answers can be obtained by calling Nicole Fraser, Town Clerk, or Phyllis Fordham, Echo Editor. The Bike Path and dangerous crossings have been the subject of correspondence from Mayor Beers to Montgomery County staff and elected officials since 1999. According to Montgomery County DOT, the most recent estimate for the project is \$8.7 million. As stated above, a number of residents expressed dismay that none of the safety issues that concern the Town seem to be corrected by the project. The next step is completion of the Environmental Assessment (EA) required by Glen Echo Park since the path will be routed through Park property. County officials are meeting frequently with Park personnel to resolve all issues that pertain to the EA.*

CONTINUED on Page 4

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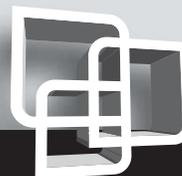


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### ***Police District Commander Discusses Property & Auto Thefts with Council***

Second District Commander Major David Falcinelli addressed the Town Council and residents in answer to concern about crime and violations of the stop sign on Oxford Avenue. He said the majority of crimes in Glen Echo and the area are auto theft and property burglaries and, overall, are down 31% this year. Matt Stiglitz, Glen Echo's representative on the citizen advisory board, introduced Commander Falcinelli. Falcinelli began his police career in Bethesda and told residents that his first burglary and arrest was in Glen Echo in 1988. The recent rash of thefts from cars was stopped the old-fashioned way, with luck and staking out the area with marked and unmarked cars. He also recommended that petty theft, such as the coins left in your car, be reported to the non-emergency number so that the police could detect patterns.

Mayor Beers asked about the County resistance to towing away abandoned autos, which is similar to the problems the Town faces in having animal control officers deal with problem animals. She said that services the Town has relinquished to the County are still getting no response. The County appears to be ignoring local requests despite a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and County.

When asked about ticketing for parking and abandoned autos, he said that the Second District has about ten officers on duty at a time, covering 16th Street, to Montrose and Seven Locks Roads and they are dispatched on a ranked basis as there are no formal "beats" anymore. "Frankly," he said, "parking and autos are low on the priority list, while the major traffic corridors, like River Road, are high priority." In this month's Police report to the Town, it was stated that off-duty officers monitored the stop sign for 12 hours over 4 days and issued 41 warnings and 9 citations. The cost to the Town was \$560.41.

Abandoned autos are a separate division and he said he would make inquiries regarding service. Regarding Glen Echo's notorious stop sign on Oxford,

he suggested that it might be an engineering issue at this point and that stop sign cameras were not likely to be approved in Maryland as legislators are unhappy with speed cameras. Mayor Beers has been interviewed by many media outlets over the stop sign and has also heard from State Sen. Brian Frosh that state approval is not likely. However, there is the possibility that the Town will gain authority to keep the fines to pay for the off-duty police writing the tickets. Cmdr. Falcinelli noted that the County is now moving speed cameras around.

Residents complained about problems with parking along MacArthur Blvd. during a recent big event at Glen Echo Park. It was suggested that the crossing guards should not park at the intersection and the Park and police should discuss keeping the road clear as it became a hazardous situation.

### ***Glen Echo Park Report***

Glen Echo Park Site Manager Polly Angelakis is moving shortly to Maui, Hawaii, to the Haleakala National Park. She will be missed by the Town as she was a frequent visitor to the Town Council meetings with her updates. Aaron Larocca was introduced at the meeting as Acting Site Manager.

The geothermal heating plan and other projects for the Clara Barton site have been scrapped due to soil problems and cost. There are plans for a new roof for the house as well as new phone lines and solar path lights for the park. Environmental assessments for the bikeway over the trolley trestle are ongoing as are traffic patterns in the parking lot. Discussions continued on ways to slow or change the traffic patterns between Oxford and the parking lot.



## Welcome, Newcomers

By Carlotta Anderson

Sandy and Chuck Violand are like Goldilocks: their first house was much too small, their next house was much too large, but now they're happy in the perfectly sized house at 7311 University Ave. They were attracted to Glen Echo because it reminded them of their childhoods growing up in Ohio and Michigan.

Meanwhile, they spent 17 years in River Falls behind Old Angler's Inn, where they raised their three children and had plenty of space for their musician's grand piano and their two daughters' sports equipment.

Chuck still works as a CPA for Grant Thornton in the DC area where he started as an intern 35 years ago after graduating from Ohio State University.

Their eldest child, Emily, 28, is an emergency room nurse at Montgomery General Hospital and lives in Bethesda. Emily jumps out of airplanes, does rock climbing, and kayaks on the Potomac River. Clay, 26, has lived in France, the Czech Republic, and New York, and has recently toured the US and Europe with an Indie rock band. Cassie, 22, is currently a senior at Virginia Tech studying psychology and horticulture and enjoys farming and working the local crisis hot line. Last year, Cassie took time off from school to work for "A Wider Circle," a Washington, DC, based Not-for-Profit.

Sandy grew up in Frankenmuth, Michigan, and came to DC to work for the FBI. With the kids now

independent, she is enjoying her morning walks, her volunteering at Walter Reed Hospital, and her Community Bible Study friends. Chuck enjoys cycling during the week on the canal and on the weekends with his local bicycling buddies.

The couple has found Glen Echoans friendly. "Many neighbors have come over to introduce themselves and invite us to parties and functions," Sandy said. Let's hope it won't be long before they know everyone.

### Real Estate Report

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|---------------------|-----------|----------|
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**Change your Life or Someone Else's: The Compassion Tour** is an active two-night workshop led by Jesse Ann Nichols George and Wendy Martens at Town Hall on October 23 and 25 from 6-9pm. Participants will learn how to understand the positive influence that compassion has on our lives and how to activate and utilize this trait, which will lead to a happier, healthier life. Cost is \$120 per person and includes published materials and 2 weeks of email coaching with Jesse. For more information and to register, contact Wendy at 301-320-9095 or go to <http://compassiontourglenecho.eventbrite.com>.

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## AROUND TOWN

**Willard and Jeanette Rockwell** will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on October 17. They met while in junior high school in Utica, New York and then married when they were 22 years old, as World War II overshadowed the Country's everyday living. The Rockwells have two children. Col. Christopher Rockwell, RTd. and his wife Susan, live in Williamsburg, Va. The senior Rockwells live in Glen Echo along with their daughter **Beth Rockwell** and her husband **Jim Ford**. Willard and Jeanette have four grandchildren, Chris, Jr. and James; Kate and Malcolm. We wish them a very happy anniversary!

**Chris Anderson**, editor-in-chief of Wired magazine, has a new book entitled *Makers: The New Industrial Revolution* that will be released on October 2 and will be available in both hard copy and electronic form. Chris is the son of **Carlotta Anderson** and the now-deceased **Jim Anderson** and the brother of **Julia Anderson**, of Glen Echo. The book outlines today's current technological revolution and how it has opened conduits for new creators and entrepreneurs. Anderson demonstrates the dazzling future possible with little capital output but lots of inventiveness. He brings his story to life as he begins with his inventor grandfather's experience as a "maker" of his own day. Anderson, who lives in northern California with his wife and five children, has authored several acclaimed and award-winning books.

**The Inscape Chamber Orchestra**, Ensemble-in-Residence at the **Church of the Redeemer**, performs on Sunday, October 7, at 5 pm, with an exploration of soundscapes created by several outstanding 20th century composers, including Luigi Dallapiccola, Jean Sibelius, Igor Stravinski and Toru Takemitsu. The concert also features a premiere by noted composer Nathan Lincoln-DeCusatis. Admission is free and a reception will follow.

## GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

**The Following Events Are Free to  
All Town Residents**

English Country Dance  
Wednesday, October 3, 10, 17, 24,  
8 pm-10:30 pm

Town Council Meeting  
October 8, 8 pm

Town-Wide Garage Sale  
Saturday, October 13, 9 am-2 pm

Glen Echo Halloween Party  
Wednesday, October 31,  
5:30 pm-6:30 pm



## October 2012 at REDEEMER

■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Holy Eucharist             | 8:00 a.m.  |
| Adult Forum & Bible Study  | 9:15 a.m.  |
| Professional Nursery Care  | 10:15 a.m. |
| Choral Eucharist           | 10:30 a.m. |
| Church School for All Ages | 10:30 a.m. |

■ UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 7, at 12 noon  
Mini-walk to Help the Homeless

Sunday, October 7, at 5:00 p.m.  
Inscape Chamber Orchestra: "Studies in Space & Motion"

Sunday, November 4, at 5:00 p.m.  
Solemn Requiem Mass with Orchestra (Gabriel Faure)

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## Potomac Conservancy Events

### 5th Annual Potomac River Jam

Sunday, October 14, 10 am – 4 pm  
 River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Drive,  
 Cabin John, MD 20818

Join Potomac Conservancy for the 5th annual Potomac River Jam – a full-day celebration of the natural beauty, culture, and history of the Potomac River and C&O Canal. The morning will begin with a sampling of the summer’s most popular nature walks at Lock 8, followed in the afternoon by live music from local musicians. River-inspired artwork from local painters will be displayed; children’s activities, and canoe rides ongoing. This is a free event open to all ages. Contact [info@potomac.org](mailto:info@potomac.org) or call 301.608.1188, x215.

*LADIES OF GLEN ECHO  
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## Letter to the Editor

### Stop Sign at Oxford Road

In the September 2012 Town of Glen Echo newspaper, The Echo, Rex Rhein gave a good overview of the stop sign running issue at Oxford and University intersections in his “Story of How a Stop-Sign Camera for Glen Echo Went Viral.”

As a 30+-year resident of the Town whose family continues to enjoy all aspects of our neighboring Glen Echo Park, the increased flow of traffic to the Park over the past few years has grown dramatically as the Park has changed its format to generate much needed revenues. I doubt any of the Town residents fault the Park’s caretakers for engaging in sustaining measures, but the onslaught is felt on this primary road leading into the Park’s parking lot on a road owned by the Town.

The video was going to last 14 days in mid-December, but the enormous volume of cars and the percentage of offenders during a fairly slow time at the Park made it quickly apparent that the additional filming after five days simply wasn’t warranted. Town Council approved use of the video camera and no tickets were issued based on the video.

During the weeks before Christmas, when the park is essentially dormant compared to the period from early Spring until the Fall, Oxford Road saw an average of 537 cars a day (Friday – Tuesday) come from MacArthur Boulevard into the Town of Glen Echo. A small percentage took a right turn onto University, but more than 98% went into the Park’s parking lot.

Of those 537 cars, as stated in Rex’s article, 81% did not stop at the stop sign. The criterion that was used to qualify for a “stop” was that the car had to remain motionless for one (1) second prior to entering the intersection and going past the stop sign.

If you extrapolate this number for a full year, and remembering the 537 cars was the average in a cold dormant timeframe, this means that over 180,000 cars travel on this short stretch of road. 81% translates into roughly 150,000 cars that don’t obey the stop sign, a rather significant number at any intersection.

There are lots of residents and visitors that walk and run along Oxford and use it as the pedestrian entrance from Town into the Park. The video shows cars going around skateboarders and dog walkers on Oxford, but never stopping. Seven of eight police vehicles ran the stop sign as well as US postal trucks, trash trucks and school buses. So did those making that right turn into Town; thus our own residents are at fault as well.

The Town has tried to deal with the issue by hiring off-duty Montgomery County police officers, but when they are present, perhaps a few hours a month, the stop sign running rate drops to 65%. Strange? Not really. When the officer goes after one car and is busy with that offender, others cars simply continue the practice of not stopping. Even an additional stop sign made no difference. The Town bears the cost of the police officers. A stop sign violation is \$143, and revenues do not go to the Town.

Mayor Beers has tried to get the Maryland General Assembly to allow for a stop sign camera and for the funds to go to the Town to offset the cost of the camera and collection of fines. The District of Columbia is prepared to initiate 4 stop sign cameras. It would seem appropriate for Maryland to follow suit.

The Park has not been receptive to changing its entrance to the parking lot so cars head immediately into the lot and not down Oxford. Cost appears to be a primary reason as well as a lack of appreciation that Oxford is a Town-owned road.

Closing of Oxford to non-residents may be a tactic to garner attention until a solution is decided upon and made into a reality.

*Willem Polak*

*Resident, Town of Glen Echo*

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### **Fall Frolic**

October 27, noon-4pm  
Activities include pumpkin decorating,  
trick-or-treating, and a costume  
parade around the Park.  
See [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org)



**Glen Echo Halloween Party**  
**Town Hall**  
**Wednesday, October 31, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**  
**Town provides pizza and drinks**  
**Please bring treat to share**  
**Volunteers and a photographer needed —**  
**Call 301-320-4041 or write to [townhall@glenecho.org](mailto:townhall@glenecho.org)**  
**TRICK OR TREAT: DARK UNTIL 9PM**  
**Please leave your lights on for trick-or-treaters**