

# The Echo

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



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January 2013

## Gas Surveys Shed Light on Possible Cost to Town

by Jerry Bodlander

### *Washington Gas Surveys*

Catherine Hathaway outlined, for the Town Council, the Town cost to enable residents to obtain natural gas for the purpose of heating their homes and energizing appliances. The information is based on Washington Gas information and surveys undertaken by the Hathaways who sent and tabulated questionnaires to ascertain the cost to the Town if gas pipes are run from MacArthur Boulevard to the Hathaways.

Several months ago, Washington Gas appeared before the Council and stated that infrastructure costs would depend on the number of houses that would utilize gas, the location of the properties, and

the overall usage of each house. A survey was structured using initial questionnaires and then so-called "load letters" by Washington Gas where residents could be more specific about what gas appliances or heating systems they would use. The Hathaways worked with the gas company to devise and distribute the questionnaires and Load Letters to determine how much interest by homeowners for natural gas consumption. They distributed those to Town residents who filled them in, thus forming a basis for the Council to estimate both interest and cost to the Town if natural gas is made available.

Ms. Hathaway reiterated the Washington Gas estimate, presented at an earlier meeting, that if 93 homes committed to using gas heat there would be an initial cost to the Town of \$30,550. However, if

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# THE ECHO

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**Next Town Council Meeting:**  
**January 14, 2013 , at 8pm**

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Dennis Alexander	1,424.30*
Chapel Valley	1,245.83

\*accounting services

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that number fell to 47, the cost would be \$140,600 and if only 31 homes committed to using gas heat the cost would be \$178,881.

Those costs are for the piping infrastructure only. The cost is separate from the cost of bringing gas from the meter into each home. Any connections to appliances and construction within the home would be an additional cost. Everything but the infrastructure cost would be borne by the homeowner.

If all 93 homes were to heat only their water with gas but not to use gas heat, Hathway said, the cost for infrastructure would be \$269,731. The cost would climb to \$278,340 if the number of home dropped to 47 and would be more than \$303,000 if the number of home dropped to 31.

Ms. Hathaway also told the Council that of the 68 Load Letters that were filled out and returned, 41 households said they would use gas heat. Fifteen respondents said they weren't interested. Six said they were interested in gas but not for heating.

There were also 2 maybes and 2 of the homes were either for sale or were under construction. Although 12 other households responded yes or maybe to the initial survey about gas usage, they provided no response to the Load Letter, itself.

In a December 3rd e-mail to the Town Clerk, Ms. Hathaway explained the follow-up e-mails she sent to residents when there seemed to be initial interest but then no further response. The Clerk thanked her for all the hard work the Hathaways put into this project on behalf of the Town.

**Baptist Church Annex**

Angela and Aaron Hirsch appeared before the Council to let them know that they have purchased the Glen Echo Baptist Church Annex and plan to live in the building with their three children. They told the Council they plan to renovate and modernize the property.

Aaron Hirsch said that while he's bought and rehabbed properties for the past decade, the purchase of the annex is as a personal property. He stated, "We want to live in this area because of the schools."

Hirsch mentioned that he came across the annex while he was renovating a property in Cabin John, which went under contract early in December.

**Glen Echo Park Report**

Some changes are underway at Glen Echo Park.

Donna Cuttone, the acting site supervisor for the park, says because the park is down two positions its weekend programs have been "slightly modified." She says, for example, the hours for the Candy Corner have been shortened. In addition, Cuttone indicated the tours at Clara Barton House may be scaled back. There are currently 7 tours a day.

But with 8,000 visitors annually, that averages about three people per tour at a cost of about \$16 each, she said. Cuttone believes if there were only four tours a day, for example, people who are going to visit would simply adjust their plans accordingly.

Changes won't happen for a while, since hourly

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tours are currently listed in various publications.

By comparison, Arlington House gets 500,000 visitors every year, Cuttone said.

The recent greeting card workshop at the park was very well attended, according to Cuttone, who called it a “good family program.”

She also said a lot of changes at the park are likely in the beginning of 2013, most notably the naming of a new superintendent.



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### Echo Staff Wanted!

Our staff is dedicated and wonderful, but sometimes they need to take a week or a month off. If you would like to be involved but have time constraints, here is another way to volunteer:

- Substitute Proofreaders
- Substitute Delivery Representatives
- Substitute Reporters

Call Phyllis Fordham at 301-263-0552 to learn more about how easy it is. We love our Town and want communication to work the best that it can. The Echo has an all-volunteer staff and contracts only for printing services.

### Redeemer Church

Redeemer Church has two concerts scheduled. First, Eya and Illuminare, two of Washington’s early music ensembles for women will perform sacred and secular music from the middle- ages and the renaissance. January 13, at 5pm.

On February 3, at 3pm the Inscape Chamber will present an eclectic program featuring Maurice Ravel’s, *Introduction* and *Allegro*. Other works include pieces by Claude Debussy and Justin Boyer.

For both of these performances, a reception will follow and a Free Offering is welcome.

### Washington Conservatory of Music

Encore Chorale, the nation’s largest and fastest growing choral program for singers Age 55+, announces start of spring 2013 season for Montgomery County Encore Chorales. One Choral group will begin to meet on January 10, 2013, from 1:30-3 pm. Fifteen-week program. Cost is \$150 plus registration fee. Glen Echo Park, South Arcade. Jeanne Kelly, Conductor. For more information, contact [info@gle-nychopark.org](mailto:info@gle-nychopark.org) or [www.washingtonconservatory.org](http://www.washingtonconservatory.org) or call 301-320-2770.

### Police Report

Police officers monitored Oxford Road 4 times in November for a total of 13 hours. There were 11 citations, and 47 warnings issued.

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*LADIES OF GLEN ECHO  
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**Babysitting along with Art Activities.** For kids 5 years old and up. \$30 per hour with art activities, all materials supplied. Making cards, pop-ups, drawings, books. \$15 per hour for just sitting. Email Carol Barton at [cbarton@mindspring.com](mailto:cbarton@mindspring.com) call 201-229-2213.

**Casual Games for Beginners and Hobbyists.** If you'd like to participate in a Tuesday Night Chess Club please contact [marc.levenson@comcast.net](mailto:marc.levenson@comcast.net).

**Multiple Services:** Woman with son attending Waldorf School three half days per week is seeking work during school hours, T-Th from 9am-12noon. Experience in child-care, gardening, landscaping, house painting, house cleaning, organization, etc. If you can use my help, I will be pleased to supply a resume and local references. Contact Kendra Taylor at 301-606-3203 or via email at [kmayfloyd@gmail.com](mailto:kmayfloyd@gmail.com).

*Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and \$1 per line for non-residents. Display ads are \$4 per vertical inch. Email Gloria Levin at [EchoBusinessMgr@gmail.com](mailto:EchoBusinessMgr@gmail.com) to set up your ad. Deadline for ads is the 15th of each month.*

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# AROUND TOWN

**Julie Rosenthal McCaffrey** was named one of the Washington Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business on Thursday, November 15. Julie runs her own strategic communications firm, JR Communications which works with corporate and nonprofit clients in the region. She is also chairwoman of the board of Leadership Greater Washington. She lives on Harvard Avenue with her husband and sons, Jon William and Simon.

**John Wells**, who lived at 6106 Bryn Mawr Avenue wrote a Christmas story that was published in the literary supplement *Milosao*, in Tirana, Albania. The story "By The Chimney With Care" was translated into Albanian for the supplement but John will make the English version available to those who request it. Contact him at [JohnbruceWells@gmail.com](mailto:JohnbruceWells@gmail.com). The Wells family were expected to unite for Christmas, 2012, in Thailand. John and Michelle are now in Bangkok and the children, India and Charlie are in South Carolina.

Photographer **George Borsari** took more than 90 photos of the Christmas party and has them on disc. He will make copies of the discs for anyone who would like to have one. Contact him at 301-229-4555.



## Thanks!

Thanks to all of those who helped with the Holiday Party. They are: Cathie Polak, Harley Feldbaum, Nora and Maddox Feldbaum, Diana Hudson-Taylor, Bernie Edelman, Ellen Leary, Andrea Matney, Gloria Levin and Forest Yang. The Gingerbread House Team included Madeline Carter and Dia Costello and the Martha's Table Delivery Fairy was Eleanor Balaban.

## 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 Council Meeting  
Monday, January 14, 8 pm

Folk Lore Society of Greater Washington  
Family Dance  
January 13, 3-5 pm



## January 2013 at REDEEMER

### ■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Adult Forum & Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Church School	10:30 a.m.

### ■ UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS

- Sunday, January 13, at 5:00 p.m.  
Eya & Illuminare: "Ladye Without Peer"
- Sunday, February 3, at 3:00 p.m.  
Inscape Chamber Orchestra: "Premieres & Impressions"
- Sunday, February 17, at 5:00 p.m.  
Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent

### The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

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## Photos from Our Holiday Party

Many thanks to George Borsari, our holiday photographer.



## Coincidence Brings Pastor's Family To Glen Echo House

By Carlotta Anderson

Andy Backus had just completed an internship with the National Community Church in College Park and was looking for a house for his family when he was shown a house to rent on Wellesley Circle in Glen Echo. It suited his wife Jess and four children and the family rented it and moved in August.

Soon afterwards he was hired as a campus pastor for a new location of National Community Church on Vassar Circle in Glen Echo, a few steps from his new home.

With him came his wife and Andrew, 8, Reagan, 6, Lincoln, 4, and Jefferson, 2. All but Reagan are boys, and he and Jess are expecting another boy in a couple of months.

There are six locales of the 17-year-old National Community Church, four in D.C. and two in Virginia. The Glen Echo building, which was given to the group by the Glen Echo Baptist Church along with the former church annex, will be the seventh. Pastor Backus said the gift was made because the Baptist Church wanted to ensure that it would still be used as a church, even though National Community Church has no affiliation with the Baptists, nor, indeed, with any other denomination, he said.

The new church is now being renovated, partly using the funds generated by the recent sale of the annex for a residence. One of the main goals is to return the upstairs of the church to the community space it represented in the 1935-42 period when the lower level was used as a fire department.

Already the pews and stage of the Baptist Church have been removed in preparation for a variety of community activities. Pastor Backus would like to remove the old firehouse doors and replace them with wooden ones to be more inviting. He is also contemplating a generator so that the community could use the space in case of need. Probably an elevator is a necessity as well. He will act as project manager for the remodeling until completion which he hopes will be in spring, after which he will begin

to hold services.

The Backus family is from West Virginia. Andy graduated from West Virginia University and got a master's degree at Marshall University, where he later taught communications studies. He then got a master's degree in theological studies at Liberty University and subsequently taught middle school. Jess was an insurance agent before having children.

Jess turned the tables on the custom of current residents bringing cookies to new residents—in early December, she delivered boxes of cookies to all town residents. An avid baker, she spent two weeks in her kitchen filling the boxes with 28 elaborately decorated cookies each of seven varieties in some 89 boxes in all.

"We love it here," Jess said. "The people here are very friendly, so kind. We really appreciate it."

Welcome to the Backus family from the town of Glen Echo.

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## Winter's Eve at Glen Echo Park Provides a Musical Surprise

Feasts for the eyes were on display at the December 15th Winter's Eve Celebration at the Park. Glassware, pottery, the lighted carousel after dark, all contributed to the festive atmosphere. Perhaps the most charming event was a buffet of sight and sound; a holiday concert presented by the Adventure Theatre/Musical Theater Center's student ensemble. Dressed in red and white, faces shiny and animated, the group of about 25 students sang enthusiastically through a variety of genres. They are a serious group, as Michael Bobbit noted in an email, "unapologetically on a track to become Broadway stars."

What fun to view these youngsters polishing their talents and taking such pride in their performances. The program, conducted by Michael Axler, and accompanied by Barry Hamilton, was perfectly blended. A few traditional songs, a jazz number, and some rock—all mixed well. And from their sound, the student ensemble understood each genre perfectly. Gershwin, Elvis and Charlie Parker would have all approved!

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## Glen Echo Park Activities

### **The Puppet Co.**

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### **Adventure Theatre MTC**

*Winnie the Pooh*

January 19 – February 24

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

or call 301-634-2270

### **Art Glass Center at Glen Echo**

Ongoing, Friday, 10 am - 2 pm,

Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm, Sunday, 12 pm - 4 pm

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

or call 301-634-2273

*CONTINUED from Page 9*

One particularly poignant moment occurred when the ensemble sang “Al Schlosa” and the two soloists used sign language as well as the Hebrew words. In front of them, about 8 rows up, a child of about three was signing back.

Bobbitt, Adventure Theatre’s Producing Artistic Director, explained that “one of the best parts about Adventure Theatre’s recent merger with Musical Theater Center is the chance to work with, train and cultivate the next generation of theatre artists. It truly delights me,” he said, “to have a hands-on approach to their hopeful success. I have dreamed for years of running a very active theatre school.”

The ensemble closed their program with “God Bless Us Everyone.” On the day after the Newtown massacre, a few eyes welled with tears in reaction to this offering.

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## Lock Doors and Be Aware

A recent message from Captain David Falcinelli, Commander, 2nd District, Montgomery County Police, noted that burglaries in nearby neighborhoods other crimes in District 2 shopping areas have caused him to add more police presence. He noted the importance of reporting a crime or attempted crime, even if you think there is little chance of finding the culprit. The following statement was sent out via our

list-serve in early December.

“As the holidays draw closer, we have seen an increase in day time (7am-4:30pm) burglaries in neighborhoods adjacent to River Rd. and Massachusetts Ave. Jewelry and electronics have been the targeted items. There have been eight reported events since September. There was only one incident where suspect information was provided to the police. A neighbor observed two black males in their 30s, one with a beard, to the rear of one of the burglarized homes. In response to this activity, my uniformed officers have been directed to provide increased daytime patrol and covert resources have also been allocated. Please pay careful attention to your neighborhood and call the police immediately for suspicious activity at 301-279-800 (non-emergency) or 911 if you observe a crime in progress. Remember to lock your doors and windows and close your garages, even if you are only gone for a short period of time. In one case, the suspects triggered an alarm very shortly after the residents left which indicates that they may have been casing the neighborhood looking for an easy target.”




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## Christmas Tree Pick-Up



Christmas Trees will be picked up at the curb on January 7th and January 14th. Remember to remove all ornamentation prior to collection.

