

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



February 2013

Town Council Meeting

By Ellen Leary

The Town Council meeting for January commenced with two members of the Council absent: Mayor Debbie Beers, who was away on business, and Councilman Mark McCaffrey, who was ill from the flu. Attending were Councilwomen Nancy Long and Eve Arber, and acting Chair Steve Matney.

Glen Echo Park Report

The first order of business was to hear from Donna Cuttone, Acting Site Supervisor for Glen Echo Park National Park and Clara Barton House. She will be leaving this temporary post by February 1, 2013, to be replaced temporarily by Aaron LaRocca, who will be Acting Site Manager from January 28 through May 19. Mr. LaRocca served as an interim Manager for a few weeks prior to Ms. Cuttone's appointment.

Ms. Cuttone also indicated there was no idea when her position would be filled permanently, or when a permanent Superintendent to the Park may be appointed. She had no answers regarding the timing of a permanent appointment.

Finally, the issue of changes to the entrance on Oxford Rd. has been tabled or, as the Council was told, deleted from consideration. At this time, no funds are anticipated for capital projects at the Park.

Other Park Issues

The Clara Barton House renovation has not been funded. There will be a substantial cost to move out the museum collection and house it during the renovation. This would require major roof work, internal sheetrock repair due to water damage, and major

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THE ECHO

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EDITOR	Phyllis Fordham, Editor Email TheEchoEditor@gmail.com
ASST. EDITOR	Diana Hudson-Taylor
DESIGN EDITOR	Debbie Lange
REPORTER	Ellen Leary
COPY EDITOR	Maire Hewitt
COPY EDITOR	Erica Tokar
BUSINESS MANAGER	Gloria Levin
DISTRIBUTION	Jane Stevenson
	Jan Shaut
	Maire Hewitt
	Sally Law
CIRCULATION	Raya Bodnarchuk
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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.

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND 20812

Town Office Phone: 301-320-4041
Town Office Fax: 301-320-3639
Office: 6106 Harvard Ave.
Town Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 598, Glen Echo, MD 20812
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday
9:30 am-12:00 pm or by appointment

MAYOR
Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Eve Arber 301-263-0016
Nancy Long 301-332-3823
Mark McCaffrey 202-248-8449
Steve Matney 301-320-2059

CLERK-TREASURER
Nicole Fraser 301-320-4041

TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:
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Next Town Council Meeting:
February 11, 2013, at 8pm

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Knopf & Brown	17,577.91*
Waste Management	4,441.06
Chapel Valley	1,245.83

*The Knopf & Brown bill represents two quarters of billing, including the amount of time and research to rebuff the Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA 12-16) that proposes to reduce the buildable lot size, as well as the time spent researching and revising the Town's ordinances.

CONTINUED from page 1

HVAC work. This needs to be monitored closely so this historic landmark is not lost beyond repair.

Flyers will be distributed to resident mailboxes for the upcoming GEP Volunteer Intake Program, but again, with no acting in-place personnel, it makes it hard to manage a volunteer program.

The Council thanked Donna Cuttone for her help in the interim management of the Park, and wished her well as she returns to Arlington House.

Citizen Statements

Joe and Martha Shannon, new residents at 26 Wellesley Circle, presented the plans and sketches of the planned addition to their home, which sits on a 3-lot property. There were no objections to their going forward with the permitting and bidding process. Councilwoman Long thanked them for their good taste in acknowledging and respecting the unique architecture of the community, something in which the Shannons, who are well-known artists, exhibited sensitivity.

Natural Gas Surveys

While a lot of information has been collected about potential gas usage, with an eye toward bringing gas into Town, more must be known. Questions raised by residents who are not sure about converting to

natural gas include those about costs to hook up each household and costs to convert to furnaces that will use gas. Nick Lambert will undertake the surveys and interviews to obtain information that will provide a second look into the potential for Town residents to invest in the infrastructure that would allow for natural gas supply to reach Town residents.

Police Affairs

Community crime, in general, is down 71% in our area of Montgomery County according to Matt Stiglitz, who indicated only eight incidences of burglary districtwide, and only one in our area, in Glen Echo Heights. He suggested that we all keep locking house doors and cars, and keep outside lights and spotlights working! There was one incident of a female jogger approached by a strange person on Christmas day: She got the plate number of the car, reported it, and the suspect, a convicted sex felon, was dealt with.

During Officer Hollander's shift (monitoring traffic enforcement on January 4), he engaged a suspended driver who ran the Oxford University stop sign. The driver was also wanted throughout Montgomery County for traffic offenses.

Town Council Minutes

The minutes for the November meeting were tabled pending re-review with all councilmembers present. The December council minutes were passed.

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LOCAL EVENTS

Potomac Conservancy

Canal Stewards at Fletcher's Cove 10 am to 12 pm, Sat., February 2

Canal Stewards at River Center Lock 8, 10 am to 12 pm, Sun., February 10

Birding for Beginners at River Center Lock 8, 1 pm to 2:30 pm, Sun., February 10

See www.potomac.org or call 301-608-1188.

C&O Canal Volunteer Opportunities

Many volunteer opportunities are outlined at www.candocanal.org along with contact information for each category listed. You may want to work on the web, ride Amtrak to provide information about the canal between Cumberland and Washington, or fight Garlic Mustard in the park. Other volunteer tasks include painting, repair work, and interpretive sign installation. See the volunteer page of the website for additional information.

Redeemer Church

The Yale Whiffenpoofs in Concert

Saturday, February 23, 7:30 pm

Founded in 1909, the Whiffenpoofs are the world's oldest and best known collegiate a cappella group. Their eclectic program will feature traditional songs as well as original compositions and hits from many decades. Unlike most musical events at Redeemer, the Whiffenpoofs' performance is a ticketed event. Visit whiffenpoofs.ticketbud.com/bethesda for details.

Cellist Yvonne Caruthers in Concert

Sunday, March 3, at 5:00 pm

Celebrated cellist Yvonne Caruthers, a member of the National Symphony Orchestra since

1978, explores the fruitful musical partnership of Frank Bridge and Benjamin Britten. Ms. Caruthers will be assisted by soprano Millicent Scarlett and pianist Jeffery Watson. Free-will offering. Reception will follow.

Clara Barton Community Center

Family Bingo Night! Feb. 22, 7-9 pm. Young people and adults, \$5 per card. Refreshments including pizza and beverages available at low prices. Lots of fun! Call 240-777-4910 or see FriendsofClaraBartonCommunityCenter.org.



Real Estate Report

11 Vassar Circle	\$469,000	For Sale
44 Wellesley Circle	\$850,000	Under Contract



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*LADIES OF GLEN ECHO
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on Thursday,
February 21, at 8 pm.
At the home of
Susan Grigsby
7325 University Ave
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Police Report

Between December 11 and January 6, police officers monitored Oxford Rd. 3 times for a total of 10 hours. There were 17 citations and 39 warnings. On January 4, one driver with a suspended license was stopped.



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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., 7:00 pm–8:00 pm, at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. \$10/hr. For more info: email dawnoftheflower@yahoo.com.

Multiple Services: Woman with son attending Waldorf School three half days per week is seeking work during school hours, T–Th from 9 am–12 noon. 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.

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 to set up your ad. Deadline for ads is the 15th of each month.

February 3 is



National Carrot Day



the irish inn

fine dining
at glen echo

live music

mondays - traditional irish
7 pm - 10 pm

every other wednesday
19th street band
8 pm - 11 pm

sundays - jazz
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

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What Does February Mean?

By Debbie Lange

The word *February* is from the Roman month *Februarius*, which was named for the *Februa* festival, or the festival of ritual purification. The Latin *februare*, meaning to “purify” or “expiate,” came from an earlier Etruscan word referring to purging. In ancient Rome, *Februarius* was the “Month of Purification” and great festivities were held to reestablish the empire’s focus on righteous living. The height of the festivities was on February 15, when there would be a full moon in the old lunar Roman calendar.

The original Roman calendar, circa 753 BC, had only 10 months. It began in March and ended in December. The winter time was not assigned any months until 713 BC, when January and February were added as the last two months. February remained the last month until around 450 BC, when the year’s start was moved to January. The calendar was reformed again between 46 BC and 8 BC when the year was stabilized to 365 days, plus a leap day in February every four years, and the months *Quintilis* and *Sextilis* (the 5th and 6th months in the original calendar) were renamed for Julius and Augustus.

February is Black History Month and National Bird Feeding Month in the United States. February 2 marked the Festival of Lights in pagan cultures, occurring at the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox and celebrating the increasing strength of the sun. Bad weather on this day meant winter was on its way out. Our Groundhog Day is derived from this holiday. February 21 is International Mother Language Day, a worldwide observance to promote linguistic and cultural diversity.

2013 is the Year of Love



It’s a matter of perspective.

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, February 11, 8 pm

Folk Lore Society of Greater Washington
Family Dance
February 10, 3–5 pm



February 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, 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

Saturday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m.
The Yale Whiffenpoofs in Concert

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

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OPINION

MacArthur Boulevard-An Unfortunate Project

By Phyllis Fordham

A reconfiguration of MacArthur Blvd. that includes a shared bike path is the subject of an Environmental Assessment by the National Park Service. The portion being reviewed covers the area of the road from Oxford, through Glen Echo Park. Two options are evaluated in the NPS Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect on which there was a hearing at the Park on January 24. The record is open until February 8, 2013. The plan can be viewed at Town Hall, or www.parkplanning.nps.gov/MacarthurBlvd-BikewayImprovements.

While the NPS meeting focuses on changes along and through Glen Echo Park, there are serious design flaws for the greater stretch of MacArthur from the bridge north of Town, through the NPS land. At an informational meeting presented by County DOT staff to the Town Council a few months ago, the entire length of MacArthur Road design was shown. Residents, concerned about the design expressed objections. One resident noted that traffic problems at the entrances to Town will not be resolved by the new design. There was no satisfactory response from County staff. They agreed that the plan, as devised, would not resolve problems the resident cited. The bus stop at MacArthur and Goldsboro was another concern.

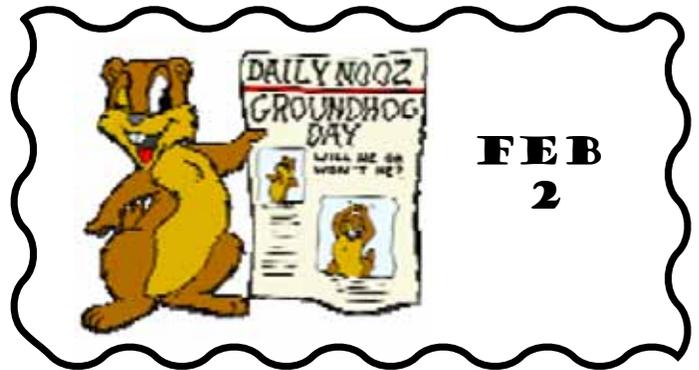
I asked why the plan was put forward since it did not solve Town problems, particularly at a time when funds are limited. Further, it does not appear to improve danger points around the circle. And, bikers can still take up the entire road space on weekends so cars will not benefit then. The answer from one Montgomery staff member was “because the County Council funded it”.

Another serious local problem is Oxford Road traffic into the Park. If we are changing the MacArthur Boulevard configuration it would be a perfect time to bring an access road right into the Park parking lot. Glen Echo residents could then relax about

Oxford Road’s use as entry to the Park, which makes it a thoroughfare dangerous enough for the Town to fund a police presence, in an effort to thwart careless driving habits.

But an access road would cost money, I know. I also know it is our money. I know we are not being served by a reconfiguration that ignores major Town concerns. Our street intersections at MacArthur will be no safer; Park traffic will increase and cause even more problems along Oxford Rd. I’d rather go back to the drawing board and use our money to fund some real solutions for the Town.

This editorial was written prior to the January 24 hearing. Maybe the plan has gotten better. I know it does not include direct access into the Park. I know the review deals only with the road through Glen Echo Park property. The record is open until February 8, 2013. It’s time for another look and for Town residents to make their views known. I like the no-action option, that is, to me, take no action to build the road that will pass the Town of Glen Echo including the area from Oxford Rd., south. At least, not until we are able to get the right bang for our buck.



Echo Staff Increased

In response to our ad last month, we have new volunteers. Erica Tokar is acting as back up to the copy editing staff and Ellen Leary has offered to act as a substitute reporter. We thank both residents for their participation and invite others to join us. Call Phyllis Fordham at 301-263-0552 if you would like to become an Echo staff volunteer.

Science and the Arts Meet in One Glen Echo Family

By Carlotta Anderson

Newcomer Jerry Mande is not a designer, yet most Glen Echo residents have studied a design of his. The design you see is informative, often makes a difference in your buying habits, and has won the President's Award for Design Excellence.

It is the Nutrition Facts label required on food products since 1993 by the Food and Drug Administration, where Jerry was a senior policy adviser to Commissioner David Kessler.

Jerry, who has a Master's degree in public health and nutrition from the University of North Carolina, moved to 1 Vassar Circle in August with his wife, Elizabeth Drye and two children, Matthew, 10, and Thomas, 12.

He currently helps lead the government's feeding programs, including the food stamp and school lunch programs at the Department of Agriculture. His work focuses on using those programs to help prevent obesity in the tens of millions of children they serve.

Elizabeth, who has an M.D. and a Master's degree in public health from Harvard and is a non-practicing pediatrician, works on health care quality measurement for Yale University, sometimes in DC and sometimes in New Haven. Although her work is based at Yale in New Haven, she says it is very useful to be in DC and in direct contact with government health officials and other colleagues here.

Both Matthew, who is in the 4th grade at Bannockburn school, and Thomas, who is in the 6th grade at Pyle, are soccer players in the Bethesda Soccer Club. Matthew has been studying piano for five years, and is an accomplished pianist, as demonstrated by his performance of a Mozart Sonata as entertainment for the interviewer.

The family lived in Brookmont last year and was seeking a residence along MacArthur Blvd. when they saw the notice on the Bannockburn listserv that the Vassar Circle house was available.

Jerry, who is from Connecticut, moved to Capitol Hill in 1982 to work for Al Gore as his health and

environmental legislative assistant. He was appointed to the USDA in 2009 by President Obama, where he first ran the department's food safety programs.

Elizabeth, from Carmel, CA, came to DC in 1989 to work for Sen. Joe Lieberman and then on domestic policy for the Clinton White House. She then returned to Harvard for medical school and completed her pediatric residency at Yale, but has decided not to practice medicine.

Music is one of the family's special interests. They have attended Wolf Trap for musical events scores of times and are fans of the Washington Folk Festival at Glen Echo. Jerry played guitar in a rock band when he was younger and now plays piano with Matthew.

Reconfiguration of MacArthur Boulevard Subject of Environmental Assessment

The National Park Service (NPS) is holding a public hearing on the Environmental Analysis prepared for the re-alignment and expansion of the shared-use bike path along NPS land. Wooden stakes with pink ribbons show the path and the encroachment into NPS property, some of which is close to Glen Echo residents. The OPEN HOUSE to present the plan was on January 24, 2013, from 6–8 pm, after The Echo deadline. Comment period is open through February 8, 2013, and written comments may be received by mail. Please see parkplanning.nps.gov/MacarthurBlvdBikewayImprovements. Contact is Mike O'Connell: 703-289-2500 or moconnell@nps.gov. The project plans are on the website; a walk along the proposed path is recommended by The Echo. NPS has cooperated with Montgomery County on the alternative development and analysis. Some residents who attended an earlier information meeting provided by Montgomery County posited concerns and questions regarding the design and reasons for this County-funded project.

Glen Echo Park Activities

The Puppet Co.

Toyland

January 18 – February 10

Little Red & the 3 Pigs

February 14 – March 10

Tiny Tots

On select Wednesdays, Saturdays,
and Sundays at 10 am

See www.thepuppetco.org

or call 301-634-5380

Adventure Theatre MTC

Winnie the Pooh

January 19 – February 24

See www.adventuretheatre.org

or call 301-634-2270

Carousel Tours

Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm.

Park History Tours

Guided tour led by a park ranger or park volunteer. Learn about the history of the Park, carousel, Spanish Ballroom, Crystal Pool and the civil rights story at Glen Echo Park. By reservation. Call NPS at 301-320-1400.

National Community Church Discusses Plans

Andy Backus, pastor at National Community Church, provided information about the Church's plans for the Glen Echo property at a meeting arranged by the Town Council on January 22. About 15 residents attended in addition to Mayor Debbie Beers and Council Members Steve Matney, Eve Arbor and Nancy Long.

Pastor Backus is hoping the Church will have its first service on June 21, 2013. He expects the beginning congregation to number about 100 people with growth up to 175 for Sunday services that will start at 10 am and will last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. He is working on a parking plan and will keep the Mayor and Council apprised of his progress. Pastor Backus expressed his understanding that parking and sound are issues to be resolved. He has two architects and a sound engineer for design of the renovations and also plans to contact the National Park Service to see if he can arrange for off-site parking.

Backus answered a number of questions. While parking seemed to be highest on the list of concerns, some people were interested in use of the property.

There will be some counseling services; on Sunday, there will be a children's nursery and classroom space. A few offices will be part of the structure to be used by the Pastor and a counselor. They will use the money realized from sale of the Annex to renovate, but it will not be enough to make major changes to the property. Their limited scope will include stabilization and return to some of the original 1930's architecture. Other limited renovations are planned for utilization purposes. The renovations are subject to County code enforcement.

Use of the property beyond services is still being worked out. Pastor Backus admitted that "this is a different kind of project than we have ever done before." For that reason, he said, they are feeling their way on use, but want to be a good neighbor and want the approval of the neighborhood. He noted that a coffee house is not being planned at this time. One resident mentioned that she did not want church members "knocking on my door" in an effort to proselytize. Mr. Backus described the Church as being evangelistic but said he had no interest in preaching to residents who might not be interested and did not anticipate door-knocking as part of their strategy to attract congregants.