

# The Echo

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



**April 2013**

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## **Brief Town Council Meeting**

**By Sally McGunnigle**

After a February agenda that included bringing natural gas into Glen Echo, the Town Council Meeting of March 11, 2012, was relatively quiet. Highlights were a report from Glen Echo Park and a police report from resident Matt Stiglitz who is the Town's designated liaison with the Montgomery County Police Department. There were no votes taken for the session.

### ***Glen Echo Park News***

Aaron LaRocca, Acting Site Manager from National Park Service (NPS), discussed the impact of the sequestration on the Glen Echo Park (GEP) and the Clara Barton National Historic site. Cash reserves are actually adequate, he said, therefore, the only impact will be a hiring freeze. Currently there are two open positions that will not be filled at this time.

The open public comments period for the shared use bike path has closed. The comments have now been passed on to the contractor, who will coordinate with the NPS to verify the comments. On April 20th, an open house at the Clara Barton House will feature the 54th Massachusetts Re-enactors, as well as the well-known Clara Barton Enactor.

The Annual Gala of the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) will be held on May 18th.

Aaron LaRocca will step down as Acting Site Manager, to be replaced by Alex Ramero, who will hold this position for four months.

### ***Fire Board Seeks Volunteers***

A volunteer is needed from Glen Echo to serve as the Community Representative to the Conduit Road

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# THE ECHO

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**Next Deadline:** April 16, 2013

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

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**Next Town Council Meeting:**  
**April 8, 2013, at 8 pm**

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Waste Management	\$8888.85
Chapel Valley	1245.83
Griffith Energy Services	807.48
Connecting Links	750.00

CONTINUED from page 1

Fire Board. The Board meets the second Monday of the month, with meetings lasting 60–90 minutes. Interested volunteers must collect 20 signatures from Glen Echo residents. Anyone interested should contact Debbie Beers, Mark McCaffrey, or Nicole Fraser for more information.

**Vehicle Control**

The town has added a third off-duty policeman to the vehicle control effort on Oxford Rd. Additional hours of coverage are not anticipated, but a third officer can fill in when others are away or not available.

**Police Report**

Matt Stiglitz, the Town liaison with the County Police, was given a tour of the 911 Call Center, which receives more than 800,000 calls a year. Calls received there are forwarded to either a fire or police dispatcher. He made several points of which the public should be aware:

- When calling 911, you must give the address; however, they can also respond to an intersection or a place name (i.e. Westlake Mall),
- If a caller hangs up, the dispatcher will try to call back,
- If anyone should accidentally call 911 stay on the line! Otherwise the Police will dispatch someone—stay on the line to tell them it is not an emergency or that you called in error,
- To request police assistance for non-emergencies (fender bender, noise complaint, keys locked in the car, etc.), call 301-279-8000 instead of 911.

Nancy Long reported the Canal Superintendent has said that the sequestration will have a serious impact on the Canal operation. The Deputy Superintendent has been transferred, and that position will not be filled. There are also three or four other positions, now open, that will not be filled. Seasonal employees will not be hired this year, which will affect the number of boat trips along the Canal. Some historic structures will not be opened this year. There will not be an electric launch boat in the Canal in Georgetown as earlier conceived by the Park but the business community in Georgetown is interested in raising funds to construct an authentic canal boat which would be pulled by mules.

**Town Maintenance**

The elevator in the Town Hall has been repaired. Signs will be posted at the elevator to instruct users regarding the correct way to use the elevator.

**Miscellaneous Issues**

The Council discussed the fact that some people in town have used the Mosquito Squad to spray their gardens. They stated that they were going to investigate the possibility of having the whole town sprayed and one of the citizens would be asked to coordinate the effort. (*ed. note: The Town listserv later had some posts about the topic, some people seem to be in favor and some are opposed for environmental reasons*).

CONTINUED on Page 4

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The Town made a donation to the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) as has been done in years past. The Town representative to GEPPAC, who currently is Debbie Beers, will retain voting authority on the GEPPAC board but terms of service will be limited as they are for other board members. There is still some confusion as to when the new rules that apply to the Town representative take effect.

Mayor Beers said she is checking with Rep. Van Hollen’s office to see if there is grant money for the Town gas project. She has learned that the Community Development Bloc Grant does not finance gas projects.

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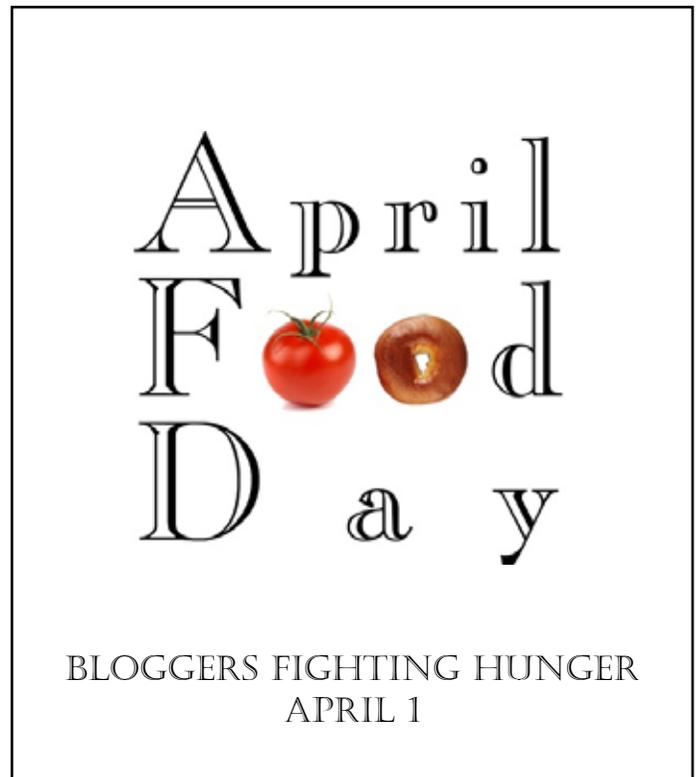
### Watch Out for Raccoons

Town Clerk Nicole Fraser was informed in March about a rabid raccoon who bit a woman who was on the towpath between Locks 8 and 9. John G. Adams, Safety Officer, C&O Canal National Historical Park told *The Echo* that while it was not caught, the raccoon probably died within a week after this incident but more animals could be infected. He said that the Centers for Disease Control names this area as a “hot spot” for raccoons and foxes. He encourages those walking to carry sticks and not to approach raccoons present in daylight hours.

Adams wrote the following saga about the raccoon bite. The woman who was bitten saw the raccoon but continued jogging, he wrote: “The raccoon started coming toward the towpath. She started yelling at it hoping to scare it away. It didn’t work. It kept coming toward her so she started to sprint. The raccoon was able to catch her and starting biting at her shoes causing her to trip. The raccoon then tried to attack her upper body and she was able to fend it off with her arms and hands. Eventually the raccoon took off toward the river. She made it back to her car and noticed the sleeve on her left arm was torn.

She then saw the wound on her arm and called her doctor. Her doctor advised her to go immediately to the ER. She is now undergoing rabies vaccine treatment.”

Mr. Adams said that anyone seeing a suspicious animal along the canal should call the organization’s 24 hour emergency number which is 866-677-6677. Give all details possible including the location, time, and circumstances of the sighting. He said the Park Service uses social media including Facebook to keep the public informed about many things, including rabid animals.



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*on Thursday,*  
*April 18, at 8 pm.*  
*At the home of*  
*Maire Hewitt*  
*56 Wellesley Circle*  
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April 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, April 14, at 5:00 p.m.  
Organist Colin MacKnight in Concert

Sunday, May 5, at 5:00 p.m.  
Mozart in May: "Music by the Master"

Saturday, May 19, at 5:00 p.m.  
Inscape Chamber Orchestra: "Vienna Redux III"

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*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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**ELECTION NOTICE**

A Town election for the seats of the Mayor and two Town Council members will be held Monday, May 6, 2013, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All seats will be for a four-year term.

Candidates must be registered Glen Echo voters who have resided in the town at least one year prior to the election and be at least 25 years of age. They are not required to be U.S. citizens.

Anyone who would like to run for these offices must file a written declaration of candidacy no later than 20 days (April 16, 2013) prior to the election. Candidacy letters should be delivered to Susan Grigsby, Supervisor, Board of Elections, 7325 University Avenue.

Absentee ballots will be provided to those requesting them, in writing, prior to 5 pm on May 4, 2013, through the Supervisor of the Board of Elections, Susan Grigsby, 7325 University Boulevard, Glen Echo Md. 20812.

— Board of Supervisors of Elections

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*The former is an official notice provided by the Board of Supervisors of Elections in accordance with Sections 505, 508, 509, and 510 of the Charter of the Town of Glen Echo.*

## Candidates for Town Government Sought

Two seats for Town Council and the Mayoral term will end in May, 2013 when there will be an election to determine who will fill the vacancies. As of March 21, 2013, none of the current officeholders have declared their intent, either to run or not to run for election. Terms will expire for Steve Matney and Eve Arber as well as Mayor Beers. The public notice of that election, as required by the Town Charter, appears in this newspaper. A resident who intends to offer their candidacy must declare, in writing, to the Supervisor of Elections by April 16, 2013. It is traditional that each candidate produces a written statement that will inform residents of his or her interest, credentials and intentions for service to the Town. Glen Echo is an incorporated Town and elections are conducted in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland.

Susan Grigsby, Supervisor of The Board of Elections for Glen Echo has asked that *The Echo* publish candidate statements in the May edition of *The Echo*. The deadline for those statements for *The Echo* is April 16, 2013, and they may be sent to [TheEchoEditor@gmail.com](mailto:TheEchoEditor@gmail.com). *The Echo* will publish all statements in keeping with its editorial policies and will not be responsible for publishing any that are submitted after the deadline. The Town Clerk will also publish additional information about the election and notices will be distributed, independent of *The Echo*.

Questions about filing should be directed to Susan Grigsby and declarations of candidacy must be submitted in writing as stated in the official notice.

## GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

The Following Events Are Free to  
All Town Residents

FSGW English Country Dance  
every Wednesday, 8–10:30 pm

C&O Canal Association Board Meeting  
Sunday, April 7, 1–5 pm

Town Council Meeting  
Monday, April 8, 8 pm

FSGW/Family Dance  
Sunday, April 14, 2–5 pm

Scottish Fiddle Club  
Sunday, April 21, 2–5 pm





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**LOCAL EVENTS**

**Washington Conservatory**

**Vocal Arts DC-Art Song Discovery**

Sunday, April 21, 4-5:30 pm at Glen Echo  
See [www.washingtonconservatory.org](http://www.washingtonconservatory.org) or call 301-320-2770.

**C&O Canal Events**

**Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup**

April 6, 9 am–noon  
Local cleanup sites  
See [www.candocanal.org/calendar](http://www.candocanal.org/calendar).

**Clara Barton National Historic Site**

**54 Massachusetts RE-enactors Presentation**

April 20, 1 pm  
Rain Location: Bumper Car Pavilion

**Dr. Chandra Manning “What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War”**

2 pm, Registration required. Call 301-320-1410  
**Open House Event, Junior Ranger Day Activities**  
3 pm–4:30 pm  
Ranger Events. Ages 7–12

**Redeemer Church**

**Organist Colin MacKnight in Concert**

Sunday, April 14, 5 pm  
A native of Bethesda, 20-year-old Colin MacKnight is a second year student at New York City’s famed Julliard School and a rising star among young organists. His varied program will include works by Johann Sebastian Bach, César Franck, and Max Reger. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

**Mozart in May: “Music by the Master”**

Sunday, May 5, 5 pm  
Musical celebration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, including choral, vocal, and instrumental works—both sacred and secular—and featuring acclaimed vocalists Hilary Park, soprano, and Andrew Pardini, baritone, as well as members of the

Inscape Chamber Orchestra. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

**Summer Music Camp**

2013: Registration is Now Open  
Monday, August 5, through Friday, August 9, 2013, 10 am to 2:30 pm daily. An entirely secular camp designed for children and youth ages 7-15 (campers must have completed first grade), the session will be staffed by three award-winning musical educators from the area. Tuition for the week is \$350. This includes a non-refundable fee of \$100 due at registration.

Scholarships are available for this week of musical learning and fun. For more information, please contact Thomas Smith, Director of Music, at 301-229-3770 or [music.redeemer@verizon.net](mailto:music.redeemer@verizon.net). The deadline for registration is July 18, 2013.

**Fire Board Seeking  
Glen Echo Representative**

Conduit Road Fire Board—At the February 2013 meeting, Chief Joe Chornock and John Wither-spoon of Glen Echo Fire Department/Conduit River Fire Board announced a vacancy for a community representative from Glen Echo on the Fire Board. The candidate needs only 20 signatures from Town residents to be appointed by the board, and does not need to wait until May to apply. If interested, one should contact Chief Chornock ([josephchornock@gmail.com](mailto:josephchornock@gmail.com)) or our former community representative Mark McCaffrey ([markmccaffrey339@gmail.com](mailto:markmccaffrey339@gmail.com)). The board meets on the evening of the second Monday of every month.

**Correction**

In the March edition The Echo reported that no-parking signs were going to be replaced by the Town. The only sign replacements that are underway are the Stop signs that are faded or have been damaged.

## Newcomers to Convert Church Annex into Home

By Carlotta Anderson

One day when he was driving locally, Aaron Hirsch made a detour into Glen Echo to see what it was like. As a real estate developer, his attention was caught by the church annex on the corner of Harvard and University and he thought, "That could be turned into a residence."

To his surprise, he saw the property advertised for sale a few weeks later. He convinced his wife, Angela, that it would be a suitable residence for them and their three children and they bought the annex in December 2012, knowing they would be faced with what turns out to be about a year's remodeling. Their architect is Jeff Broadhurst, who also remodeled the house at 6009 Princeton Ave. Meanwhile, the family will continue to live in their Wesley Heights house.

"We'll have a ton of renovations, but no additions, with the possible exception of adding a cupola (as the annex originally had)," he said. They plan to have four bedrooms in the basement level but will need to excavate the area because the ceilings are so low and both Aaron and Angela are tall. Using that area, they will end up with 3100 square feet of living space, Aaron said.

The exterior dimensions will remain the same, as is mandated by County zoning laws, because the lot does not meet the usual 6,000 square feet requirement for houses in the R-60 zone. Luckily for the Hirsches, the disputed property lines were legally settled before the property was put up for sale by the National Community Church. (See related article, *Sliver of Land*, on p.10.)

When they move in, Cecily, now 10, will attend Bannockburn Elementary School. Conrad, now 4, will stay at school in D.C. until he starts kindergarten in 2014. Greta, 2, will be at Bannockburn Nursery School.

Aaron grew up in this area and attended Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, then the University of Wisconsin, and later the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He served in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica and then worked for the

World Bank. He is now an independent real estate developer and agent in DC and Maryland.

Angela grew up in Buffalo, NY, and was a political science major at Colgate University before coming to DC in 1994 to work for the Justice Department. She worked for AID in Indonesia and is now in the communications office of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Aaron and Angela say they are looking forward to meeting their fellow Glen Echo residents and plan to attend town functions before they move in. Aaron has already attended a Town Council meeting, where he provided names of heating and plumbing contractors who might be willing to provide estimates to residents who contemplate installing gas in their homes.

The Hirsches say they sense a lot of community spirit here and find the residents very friendly.

Welcome to Glen Echo!

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## Thanks for Your Service

Diana Hudson-Taylor has resigned after many years of serving as Assistant Editor for *The Echo*. She will continue to solicit Ladies Night hosts for that monthly event. The Echo and residents of the Town are grateful for Diana's long and willing service. She is involved in a number of civic affairs and would like to devote more time to one of her favorite pastimes, which is sailing. We thank her for all she has done for The Echo and wish her happy sailing and, hopefully, some spare time.

### Police Report

Two police officers spent a total of 7 hours monitoring traffic on Oxford Road. They issued 21 warnings and 5 citations to drivers who violated the stop at Oxford and University.

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## A Sliver of Land Causes Real Estate Chaos

By Tom Meeks

This is a story of how casually property lines were viewed more than half a century ago when Glen Echo lots were not of great value.

At some point, early in the history of the former Baptist Church annex at University and Harvard Aves., the two lots next to the Annex were vacant. So, no one seems to have noticed that the back right corner of the building was encroaching on the lot next to it by about eight inches.

It was only in 1987, when the two empty lots were sold to a builder with plans to combine the lots for a single home that the issue came to light. The builder was told by the Park & Planning Commission that to solve the encroachment, he should carve out about an eight foot wide swath of Lot 8 for the church and combine the other part of Lot 8 with Lot 7 to form a new Lot 14. The Annex sits on Lot 9.

For some reason, the church never took possession of the small "Part of Lot 8" and the builder who retained the small plot ended up going out of business owing both state and federal taxes. Some years later, the small "Part of Lot 8" was sold at a tax auction to a company called Amity Enterprises. Back property taxes were paid. But before the deeds could be finalized, the owner died, once again leaving the property in limbo and new taxes went unpaid.

That is how the matter stood when the church decided to sell the Annex. It took more than two law firms and over \$30,000 in legal fees to finally sort out who owned what and how we could finally obtain Part of Lot 8 so that the church could go forward with the transfer of the property with a clean title.

The church began by using a real estate lawyer, which would seem the logical choice. But it turned out that the situation was so complex and convoluted that our initial lawyer, even after consulting with other top real estate lawyers in the area, could not find a resolution. The special circumstances tying up the "Part of Lot 8" required the expertise of a land use law firm. It was this switch of law expertise that

allowed the attorneys to find a way to finally resolve the issues with County officials. As it turned out, the new buyer was also confronted by some County hurdles that were resolved by this same land use law firm.

It was an expensive lesson. We pass this information on so that Glen Echo homeowners might be aware of some of the issues that can arise from long past land decisions—or indecisions. It's important in these cases to find a law firm having the right specialty for a particular problem. We found the right law firm and with their help the Annex was able to be sold and the funds used to help update and renovate the building on Vassar Circle that is now National Community Church. Once that work is completed, we are certain that all of us will be able to agree that the effort to find a solution was well worth it.



Earth Day — April 22

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## Saint Patrick's Day Party

Glen Echo's annual Saint Patrick's Day party was a success thanks to many volunteers. Kate and Jim Horwitz, former town residents, continued their yearly efforts to plan the party and act as mistress of ceremonies and bartender, respectively. They undertake this work despite the fact that they now live in Annapolis. Kate publicly thanked Nicole Fraser for organizing the party. Anthony Hyatt played the violin to make the festive evening reminiscent of the old sod. As was traditional, residents read limericks they had written and a coin hunt engaged the kiddos in searching for one specially marked gold wrapped, chocolate coin. This annual party is said to be a

favorite of Mayor Debbie Beers, who was unable to attend due to an injured back. Close to 100 people attended.

Residents who volunteered were Forest Yang and Ellen Leary who both worked on setup. The clean-up crew included Susan Grigsby, Debi Sacks, Don Beers, Jim and Sally McGunnigle, Bernie Edelman, Aiden Edelman, Brent Agnew, Eileen Bart, and Kaylie and Lucca Hawe. Lucca Hawe was the winner of the coin hunt; he lives in Bannockburn. George Borsari was the photographer and will make any of the photos taken available to anyone who wants them.

Photos by George Borsari



Bannockburn and Glen Echo residents enjoy socializing.



The crowd lines up for the buffet dinner.



Kate Horwitz and Anthony Hyatt lead a sing-along.



Kestrel Lambert entertains partygoers with her limerick.

## Glen Echo Park Activities

### **The Puppet Co.**

*Jack and the Beanstalk*

March 14–April 21

*Cinderella*

April 25–June 9

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

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### **Adventure Theatre MTC**

*Three Little Birds*

March 15–April 14

*Big Nate*

May 3–June 9

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### **PhotoWorks**

*Mirror to the World : Fifth Anniversary Documentary Photography Show*

March 22 – April 28

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## Two Mysteries

By Sally McGunnigle

So there we were, on the romantic trip of a lifetime. A Danube River Cruise to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary—who could ask for anything better? As we passed through Nuremberg, Prague, and Vienna, I was happily taking lots of pictures with my little digital camera. Finally we arrived in Budapest, a stunning city worthy of many pictures.

The tour provided by the ship took us, on a bus, to the top of a hill to a church, and gave us time to explore the many little shops. As the bus arrived back at the boat, I realized I did not have my camera. In spite of not speaking a word of Hungarian, my husband and our friend ventured out, took a taxi back up the hill, searched through all the shops, but could not find the camera. With some sadness at our loss, we returned to our ship. The cruise was over; we left Budapest without the camera and the over 1200 pictures stored on the chip.

While we mourned the loss of our photos, we had our memories. Six months later, my son received a

message on Facebook asking if he had lost a camera. He answered, explained about his crazy mother (who had bemoaned our loss to the entire family) and the Facebook correspondent sent his email so we could contact him. He had put all the pictures in “cloud” storage, and he promised to mail the camera back from his home in the U.K.

Now all of this points to a very kind and thoughtful person, but the mystery was, *How did he find us?* No, there was no identification on the camera. Unbelievably, this wonderfully generous person went through [all 1200 Pictures](#), and managed to find one with a package on a table. By enlarging this picture he found the name McGunnigle on the package and from there went to Facebook!

The other mystery is *Where did he find the camera?* Well, it turned out that he was also on a Danube river cruise, and his boat sent him on a bus tour around Budapest. He just happened to put his hand down between the seats on the bus, and there was the camera!

Mysteries solved; gratitude squared. I meant it when I told him he would be my best friend for life!