

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered 1904



June 2013

May Town Council Meeting

By Ellen Leary

The first order of business was for mayor Debbie Beers to swear in recently elected Council Members: Steve Matney, who served a prior term, and Matt Stiglitz who joined as a Council Member for the first time. Stiglitz is known to many in Town for his other services to the community. The Council thanked Eve Arbor for her service and the Mayor said she hoped Ms. Arbor will rejoin sometime in the future.

Buildings in Town

Owner Aaron Hirsch and Architect Jeff Broadhurst on the Baptist Annex on University Boulevard:

There will be a full renovation of the building, with the understanding that the envelope of the building will not be expanded. The original Sanctuary space will remain, recreating the trusses and removing the hanging ceiling. To create living spaces below, the

lower level will be modified. The lower level will be excavated to create higher ceilings for the bedrooms on that level. The official mailing address will be on University Avenue, the formal address on Harvard Avenue. The everyday use entrance will be on University.

The Council stated that that they wanted to maintain the historic feel to the building with materials and colors. The square footage will not change, nor the height, and there is no change to the footprint.

Owners Steve and Wendy Carpenter-Israel on 44 Wellesley Circle: The Carpenter-Israels, who purchased the National Register property formerly owned by the Brintnalls on Wellesley Circle, said they have checked with the Montgomery County Historical Commission regarding the changes they may want to make to the house. The roof needs to

CONTINUED on page 3

THE ECHO

Published unofficially by, for, and in the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of *The Echo* are on file at Little Falls Library. Also provided online at www.glenecho.org. Total circulation: 190. Distributed the first weekend of the month.

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

Next Deadline: June 20, 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.

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND 20812

Phone: 301-320-4041
Fax: 301-320-3639
Office: 6106 Harvard Ave.
Website: www.glenecho.org

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
 Matt Stiglitz 301-229-0926
 Nancy Long 301-332-3823
 Mark McCaffrey 202-248-8449
 Steve Matney 301-320-2059

CLERK-TREASURER
 Nicole Fraser 301-320-4041

Next Town Council Meeting
June 10, 2013, at 8 pm

SUNOCO



KENWOOD SUNOCO CENTER
 (formerly Kenwood Mobil)
 5201 RIVER ROAD
 BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20816
 PH: (301) 652-9527 • FAX: (301) 652-1138

James Spicer
 OWNER

Dick Spicer
 SERVICE MANAGER

AUTO REPAIR • FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
 FACTORY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

Law & Associates, Inc

Independent Registered Investment Advisor



Wealth Management & Financial Planning
 (301) 229-8500

Heather Cottage
 6111 Tulane Avenue
 Glen Echo, Maryland 20812-1205
www.lawandassociates.com

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.
 Member FINRA/SIPC

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Peyton's Tree Service | \$10,370 |
| Chapel Valley | \$1,246 |

CONTINUED from page 1

be replaced; they want to add on to the kitchen, and are going to make two penetrations into the 1990 additions to the house to vent a new stove. Nothing on the outside is going to change, including the windows. All the demolition has been done, and all the ductwork is completed. They are using reclaimed pine floors and some existing structural pieces. They will keep the shutters and will not paint the stone. Council Member Long asked if they planned to live there. Steve replied "we plan to renovate it and move into it in a few years."

Dog Urine

Resident Ellen Leary said she was making her bi-annual complaint about dog urine on her lawn. She stated that apparently the length of her property, at 32 Wellesley Circle, is exactly the distance that a dog with a full bladder needs to release its contents, and because her property is unfenced, it is a prime place to do so. She entreated residents not to allow this since she can't even grow back urine-resistant ground cover in parts of her yard without reconditioning the soil. She said she respects her neighbors' homes and asked that they respect hers.

Update on Gas Lines

The earlier estimate for a permit needed by Washington Gas (WG) has increased. The Town allocated up to \$25,000 for a survey required by the Army Corps of Engineers before they will issue a permit to provide access across MacArthur Boulevard from existing gas lines. Washington Gas now estimates that the cost will be \$32,500, which will be expended for the feasibility survey. The Council stated that this is very discouraging, since WG has underestimated

the cost at every turn.

Matt Stiglitz stated, "I know right now the previous Council has authorized up to \$25,000 for the survey. I would say from the beginning the whole exercise is wrong. At every instance they've been asked to quote a figure, it's been wrong and it is an increase. They haven't struck me as competent, trustworthy."

Mayor Beers responded: "The only good thing is the cost of the survey is credited to the overall cost." She has contacted the Town Attorney to ask the Maryland Public Service Commission to put pressure on Washington Gas to keep costs within the original estimate and to complete the process in a timely manner. If the Town does not move forward with the gas project, or if the Army Corp of Engineers will not grant a permit, the Town does not get a rebate of the survey fee. Washington Gas is the contracting party for the survey that would be conducted by a third party engineering organization.

There was a brief discussion regarding the few communities south of Glen Echo that also border MacArthur Blvd. and how they worked out the availability of gas to their communities.

Police Report/Community Report

The district has acquired six new officers, in part, due to the increased size of the district. Denise Gill, community service officer, is retiring in June. Another officer has been named.

The nice weather has people out in their yards, which can cause an uptick in residential burglaries.

CONTINUED on Page 4

the irish inn
live music
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

6119 Calarco Ave, Glen Echo
MD 20812

301.229.6600 • www.irishinnglenecho.com

CONTINUED from Page 3

Police suggest that it is good to keep a key in your pocket and your door locked. There have been a string of commercial burglaries in Bethesda in the Central Business District (CBD).

Upcoming enforcement efforts will be focused on “click it or ticket,” during a three week period, starting soon. Residents are reminded to take the campaign seriously since our police commander won an award last year for issuing 1,600 tickets.

C&O Canal

As soon as the Sequester period is over, the C&O Canal National Park will be considered for additional funding. Council Member Long reminded the Council of the historical significance of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas’s event in 1954, leading conservationists on a hike up the C&O Canal, along with two editors of the Washington Post. Ms. Long mentioned that we should all remember to preserve our historical roots, as well as our environmental and conservation responsibilities.

Bamboo Cutback on Oxford Road

The Town will have the bamboo growing along the top of Oxford Road and MacArthur Boulevard cut back in response to a National Park Service (NPS) request. NPS believes the bamboo creates sight line problems as traffic enters and exits Oxford Road.

Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron LaRocca’s detail as acting site manager will end on May 18, 2013. Nevertheless, he will continue work to address all site manager responsibilities until a successor is named. Management has yet to make a decision on how to fill the position. The position can be filled permanently, with another four month detail or with a not-to-exceed one year detail. Mr. La Rocca was thanked for his kind and understanding help during this downsizing time.

Bike Path Project: There has been no reaction since the April Town Council meeting; the decision document is still at the NPS Regional Office. How-

ever, NPS is working on a draft construction permit for the County. This document contains conditions under which the construction must be completed. These conditions include, but are not limited to, working around busy seasons and special events at Glen Echo Park (GEP), restricted hours (8 am–dark), and no holiday construction. Conditions can still be changed to reflect other concerns. Glen Echo Park Partnership (GEPPAC) will also be reviewing conditions.

Junior Ranger Camps: Clara Barton National Historic Site, through its partner Eastern National (operator of the NPS Book Stores), was able to secure transportation for all four Junior Ranger Camps. The theme of this year’s camps is “Civil War to Civil Rights.” Each camp will travel into Washington, DC, to see the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum as well as the Lincoln and Martin Luther King Memorials.

Family Day: Family Day was quite successful. Beautiful weather brought about 4,000 visitors to the site. Parking early in the day was an issue. Once the lots were full, they were closed. NPS and GEPPAC will work to identify alternatives to turning visitors away.

Washington Folklife Festival: The acting site manager notified the GEPPAC facility manager and the festival lead volunteer that the Town requested a letter for use of the Town’s property near the Potomac Palisades tent. NPS and festival volunteers will be setting up tents the weekend before the event. A planning meeting is being set up. NPS is concerned about current staffing levels and its ability to assist to the same levels of previous years. GEPPAC, NPS, and the festival are recruiting volunteers who will help in all aspects of event.

Volunteers: An NPS biologist will be onsite Saturday morning to remove bamboo from GEP. The bamboo is in the Living Classroom area and growing toward the pottery yurts. Depending on bamboo test results, Glen Echo bamboo may be donated to the National Zoo to feed the pandas. Volunteers have planted native plants in the landscaped areas around the park.



HUGHES
LANDSCAPING

301-330-4949

A FULL SERVICE LANDSCAPING COMPANY
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION
PATIOS, WALKS, WALLS, BUILT-IN GRILLS
BRICK, FLAGSTONE, BLOCK, TWBER

COMPLETE MAINTENANCE
TREE / SHRUB CARE & INSTALLATION
LICENSED MD TREE EXPERT

SERVING GLEN ECHO HOMEOWNERS SINCE 1983
VISIT OUR WEBSITE - WWW.HUGHESLANDSCAPING.COM

C.G. Cianci & Son
Contractors

Concrete • Decks • Remodeling
Kitchens • Baths • Tile

MHIC# 49600
Licensed & Insured

(301) 916-5622
ccianci@verizon.net

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO
Ladies Night
on Wednesday,
June 19, at 8 pm
At the home of
Phyllis Daen
6000 Harvard Ave.
RSVP: 301-675-1741

Indulge your Inner Gourmet &
Satisfy your Inner Green!
Serving the Community since 1975



BETHESDA CO-OP
Natural Food Market

Enjoy the Finest in Organic Local & Gourmet Products
Introducing Fine Wines & Microbrews-Organic Local Kosher, too!
Fresh Produce, Pastries & Artisan Breads Daily
Imported & Domestic Cheeses & Delicacies
Veggie, Vegan, Macro & Gluten-free Specialties
Vitamins, Supplements and Herbal Remedies
Unique Gifts, Cards, Clothing, Books, CDs and more...

www.bethesdacoop.org • 301-320-2530
M-Sat 8:30-9 • Sun 8:30-8
6500 Seven Locks Road • Cabin John, MD 20818



June 2013 at
REDEEMER

■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Holy Eucharist | 8:00 a.m. |
| Adult Education Forum | 9:15 a.m. |
| Nursery Care | 10:15 a.m. |
| Choral Eucharist | 10:30 a.m. |
| Church School | 10:30 a.m. |

■ UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

40th Annual Strawberry Festival & Silent Auction
Saturday, June 8, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Summer Music Camp 2013
Monday, August 5 – Friday, August 9, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

For more information, please visit our website.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
6201 Dunrobbin Drive • Bethesda, MD 20816
301.229.3770 • office.redeemer@verizon.net
www.redeemberbethesda.org

Town Election Results

Debbie Beers was elected to serve another four year term as Mayor on May 6, 2013. She ran unopposed and received 89 votes. Two Council seats were open to three candidates. Those candidates were Stephen Hathaway, Steve Matney, and Matt Stiglitz. Stiglitz received 86 votes and incumbent Steve Matney garnered 50 votes. Hathaway came close, receiving 45 votes.

Board of Elections Supervisor Susan Grigsby recruited two judges to assure that the voting went smoothly and efficiently. They were Jane Stevenson and Matt Costello. Town Clerk Nicole Fraser was on hand in an official capacity.

A highlight of the voting was when Allegra Willson cast her first ballot in a Town election. She is the granddaughter of Carlotta and Jim Anderson and daughter of Julia and Speke Wilson, therefore a third generation Glen Echo resident.

Eve Arbor was the incumbent Council Member who did not run for another term. The new Council was sworn in at the May 13 Council meeting and began serving immediately.

A number of residents expressed their appreciation to those who were willing to run for office and for Ms. Arbor's past service on the Council.



Allegra Willson casts her first ballot.



Cabin John Organizing

Feeling disorganized?

Stuff always lost?

Tired of paying late fees?

call 301-263-9482

Melanie@dorsetwest.com

www.cabinjohnorganizing.com

Real Estate Report

11 Vassar Circle

\$430,000

Sold!

Police Report

Two police officers spent 21 hours monitoring traffic and stop sign compliance on Oxford Road from April 9 to May 13, 2013. They issued 56 warnings and 11 citations.



Pet First Aid Certified Through **Rescue One** Training for Pet Care

PETSITTING BY PATRICIA

Serving NW DC and Bethesda for over 18 years
Bonded and Insured · Excellent References

- Cat care
- Midday dog walks
- Overnight housesitting

301-229-4774
petsbypatricia@gmail.com
www.petsittingbypatricia.com

Town To Raise Real Estate Tax To 14.13¢ Per \$100 Of Assessed Value

By Rex Rhein

For the second year in a row, the Town Council has approved a higher tax rate—an increase of 0.7¢ per \$100 of assessed value, or 14.13¢/ \$100—to maintain a “constant yield” in real estate tax revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Mayor Debbie Beers explained in the Notice of Budget Hearing that: “This is because Town assessments have fallen again by over \$3 million, and I believe that it is important to retain a constant yield from Town taxes, particularly now when we can expect to receive less money from the State of Maryland and Montgomery County.”

Last year, the Council approved an increase of 0.4¢/\$100 because the assessed value of homes in Glen Echo also had dropped by about \$3 million. Real estate tax revenue had been expected to be less than \$83,000 this year, however, the Town has already accumulated more than \$84,500 in real estate taxes.

The new tax rate is expected to produce \$85,456 for the Town next year, according to calculations presented to the Council on May 22 by Clerk–Treasurer Nicole Fraser. The other major sources of income next fiscal year will be Glen Echo’s share of state income tax revenue (\$67,000) and county revenue sharing (\$20,000), both of which are predicted to be slightly less in 2014 than were expected for this year. The Town also anticipates receiving \$27,900 from the office rental for the Glen Echo Post Office, which

is a little higher than last year’s estimate because of a step-up in the lease agreement, and \$9,772 as its share of the state highway fund, which is significantly higher than last year. However, Councilman Steve Matney said the highway fund number is highly problematic, so it should not be considered as firm.

The budget anticipates an additional \$21,440 from a variety of other sources, including public utilities’ property taxes (\$7,500), rental of parking space at The Irish Inn (\$3,600), rental of the Town Hall (\$2,500), and franchise income from Comcast and Verizon (\$3,000). **Total revenue expected for 2014 is \$231,568**, or \$4,227 more than was anticipated for the current fiscal year. (As of May 6, actual revenue received by the Town was \$210,255, although more is coming, according to Ms. Fraser.)

Even with this increased revenue, **the approved budget deficit for next year is \$232,645**, which will be far larger than this year’s \$75,174 deficit, primarily because of the significant expense of bringing gas service into Glen Echo. .

At the May 22 meeting, the Council approved a budget figure of \$185,000—or 40% of the Town’s **overall budget expenditures of \$464,213**—for the gas project that has been under discussion. Washington Gas has informed Mayor Beers that it would cost the Town \$209,877 to bring gas to the Town.

If fewer homes than 73 actually sign up for the service, Washington Gas’s charges to the Town may be far higher, so the budgeted amount may not be adequate, suggested Councilman Matney. Newly

CONTINUED on Page 9

GLEN ECHO HARDWARE

7303 MacArthur Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20816
301-229-3700

Authorized Distributor of
Makita • Paslode • Fein • Benjamin Moore Paints

ADHD Coaching For LIFE™



- Support for Children and Adults
- Specializing in Professional and Academic Transitions
- Focus on Moving Forward in all Areas of Life and Work
- Daily Check-Ins
- Flexible Schedule

Candace Sahl, MA Ed/HD
contact: coach@candacesahl.com

Positive Learning Experiences, LLC

- A Coaching Approach to Tutoring
- ADHD Specialists / SAT-ACT Prep



Call 301.229.9515

www.candacesahl.com • www.pletutoring.com

HANDYMAN
LIVING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Electrical • Painting • Carpentry • Plumbing
Decks • Roofs Gutters • Drywall • Tiling
Masonry • Power Washing & Sealing

**Bathroom, Kitchen
and Basement Remodeling** 

References from your Neighbors
Hemy

Insured 973-432-2287 (c)
Free Estimates 301-229-1450 (h)

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.

Baby and petsitter. Reliable and responsible 13-year-old. Available most afternoons, evenings, and weekends. I am also available most of the summer. Experienced. Call Miles Wilson at 301-320-2331.

For Sale: Family Room Sofa and two chairs in perfect condition. Piano Lamp (brass/black base). Miscellaneous items. Call Sandy at 301/922-1913.

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.

Digital Handyman, Inc.
Personal Computer Solutions

On-site computer repair

- Maintenance • Hardware
- Repair • Software
- Virus/spyware • Gadgets

240-447-6535

Steve's Pet Care


202-320-2559
Adawehis@aol.com

In-home Care and Daily Walks
Reasonable Rates
Excellent References
Glen Echo Resident
Lab School Graduate 2004

DC PC
COMPUTER SUPPORT

MAINTENANCE • UPGRADES • REPAIRS
NETWORKING • PERSONAL TUTORING

Jim Connolly • 202-841-0873
support@dc-pc.com

Emily Siegel Health Practices, LLC

Offering therapeutic bodywork, energy balancing, and nutritional counseling to reduce stress, anxiety, pain, and the effects of injury, trauma, and disease.

Emily Siegel, PhD MPH LMT
#301-320-4180;
emily@emilysiegel.com; www.emilysiegel.com

 **Stuart & Maury, Inc.**
Realtors

"Glen Echo Resident"
Patty Sieber
240-743-7194 cell
301-654-3200 Office


Call me for all of your Real Estate needs!

LOCAL EVENTS

C&O Canal Events

Nature Walk, Violette’s Lock

Saturday, June 8, 10 am to 1 pm

Paddle Trip, Violette’s Lock

Saturday, June 15, Reservations (202-801-0963)

Heritage Montgomery Tour

Seneca Aqueduct and Lock 24

Saturday, June 29

See www.candocanal.org/calendar.

Redeemer Church

40th Annual Strawberry Fest and Silent Auction

Saturday, June 8, 11 am to 3 pm

CONTINUED from page 7

elected Councilman Matt Stiglitz pointed out, however, that “approving the budget does not approve the actual expenditures” for the gas project. “That’s a vote for another day,” he said.

The council considered adding \$25,000 to the fiscal 2014 budget to fund the necessary permit required by the Army Corps of Engineers for stretching gas lines across MacArthur Boulevard, but the Council decided instead to pay for the feasibility study before the end of this fiscal year. Mayor Beers noted that the Council had already voted to spend the \$25,000 for the survey at its February meeting.

Assuming the entire gas project takes place and is paid for by the Town at or below the \$185,000 budgeted, the resulting deficit would consequently **reduce the Town’s account balance from \$407,520 to \$174,875**. Councilman Matney felt this diminished surplus would be inadequate to meet contingencies, such as street repairs that might be necessary after Washington Gas finished its work. “They may patch the street, but it won’t last,” he predicted. Mayor Beers noted that the Town never spends all the money that it budgets, so it is unlikely that the account balance would fall below \$200,000. “It goes up about \$60,000 every year,” she said. In the 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**

**Town Council Meeting
Monday, June 10, 8 pm**

of Budget Hearing letter, she said “past experience indicates that it is likely to be restored to its present level within a maximum of four years.”

To assure that the Town had enough money to pay for the gas project, Town Resident Aaron Hirsch suggested that the Council consider a special assessment to property owners who say they want the service, to make sure they signed contracts when the time came to do so. The money—perhaps \$1,000 per resident asking for the service—would be put into an escrow account. It would be paid to Washington Gas if the project went forward but would be returned to the resident if it did not. The justification for this was that a house’s property value would be increased by having gas service, and those who signed up first would be getting a better deal from the gas company than residents who opted in afterwards. No action was taken on the suggestion at this meeting.

One problem for the Council in deciding how much it would cost to bring gas to Glen Echo is that Washington Gas has not specified exactly what the \$209,877 would cover, nor whether its figure was incumbent on 73 houses ordering the service. “Given their track record so far, it would increase my comfort level if Washington Gas came to explain,” said Councilman Stiglitz. A representative of the utility had been invited to the May 22 meeting but had not been able to attend, according to Mayor Beers. Before proceeding further, it will be necessary for a

CONTINUED on Page 10

CONTINUED from page 9

utility representative to attend a special meeting of the Council, which is tentatively scheduled for June 3, she said.

The Mayor indicated that she is a strong supporter of bringing gas to Glen Echo. In past years, the Corps of Engineers' reluctance to allow a gas line to be brought under MacArthur Boulevard had been a major impediment, but the Corps is now "melting" on this issue, she said. Also, estimates for bringing the service to the Town are lower than they had been in the past, and "people are more willing to spend money" to get gas service, especially with the future cost of gas for heating possibly running at 50% that of oil.

Expenditures

Besides \$185,000 for the gas project, which on the Town's budget documents is designated as **other capital improvements**, the largest single expense will be for **refuse collection and recycling** (\$60,000), the same amount as for this year. Nor is there an increase budgeted for next year for **legal expenses** (\$30,000), **auditing and accounting** (\$7,500), or funds to pay for required **insurance and bonds** (both the mayor and clerk-treasurer are bonded). There will, however, be a 4% increase in **payroll expenditures** (\$28,298), the line item that provides the clerk-treasurer's financial compensation. No money has been set aside for **other professional services** next year, since the \$5,000 earmarked for this item in 2013 was not spent. The \$15,000 budgeted for **administration** in 2013 has been reduced to \$12,000; only about \$11,000 was spent on police enforcement of Town ordinances this year related to traffic on Oxford Road.

Fixed operating expenses in the 2014 budget include \$1,000 for **electricity**, \$3,500 for **heat**, \$400 for **water**, and \$2,600 for **telephone/Internet** services at the Town Hall. The total is \$1,700 less than budgeted for this year. **Recreation** expenses—primarily for Town parties and picnic—are again budgeted at \$6,000 for 2014. The Town's newspaper, *The Echo*, is expected to cost \$3,200, the same amount budgeted for this year. (In fact, only \$2,268 was spent on the publication as of May 6, and this

expense was offset by advertising and subscription income of \$1,695.)

Streetlights, another major line item for 2014, are projected to cost the Town \$10,000, which is \$2,000 less than budgeted for this year. **Landscaping** is again earmarked for \$20,000, as is **street paving** (primarily to replace the speed bump on Oxford Road). **Town Hall maintenance** is budgeted at \$9,000, **street sweeping** at \$5,000, and **other maintenance** at \$5,000, the same levels as this year. **Snow plow removal**, which cost \$1,120 this year out of \$3,000 budgeted, is earmarked for \$2,500.

Sidewalk improvements are again budgeted for \$15,000. **Town Hall improvements** are expected to cost \$5,000 less next year than the \$10,000 budgeted for 2013 (\$4,139 was spent as of May 6). **Signage**, which includes money for deteriorating stop signs and street signs, is budgeted for \$10,000, compared with zero for this year. The **Town Hall parking lot's** budget is increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000 (nothing was spent this year).

There is no money budgeted for **surveys** next year, since the \$25,000 for the gas survey is coming out of this year's budget. Funds set aside for **contingencies**, which were budgeted at \$3,000 this year, are being increased to \$10,000 in 2014.

The amount budgeted for **community contributions** will fall from \$4,000 to \$3,000. In a letter to the Council prior to the meeting, Town resident Phyllis Fordham said she saw "no reason for the Town to donate money to Glen Echo Park or to the Glen Echo Partnership for Arts and Culture." For one thing, she said, the "practice of one government's taxpayers donating funds to another governmental entity or to a public-private partnership that does not operate directly for the benefit of Glen Echo's residents is puzzling. The Park's goals are not to serve the Town, but people from the entire region," and "some of the Partnership's goals are not in the best interests of Glen Echo residents, for instance, that goal to increase visitors and traffic." [Full disclosure: Ms. Fordham is Editor of *The Echo*.] Mayor Beers said it was valuable to the Town that it had a representative on the park's board of directors, and there was some question as to whether this would continue if the Town ended its financial contributions.



AROUND TOWN

Studio E Partners sponsored a well-attended show of Brockie Stevenson's work on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at the artist's former studio on Yale Avenue.

Jane Stevenson showed guests through the collections while Studio E Partners' Edith Graves and Elisabeth Hayes managed the event, including marketing, signage, advertising, and lemonade and cookies served on the porch. The relaxed scene was exactly the atmosphere that Jane Stevenson wanted to display her beloved husband's works. "Brockie enjoyed having people in his studio and showing them what he was working on and how he worked" she said. For more information about owning Brockie's prints or paintings, please contact Jane at 301-229-3578 or Studio E at www.studioepartners.com.

Animal Problems

According to notes from the May 13, 2013 Town Council meeting, The Echo editor agreed to write a serious article about animal nuisances and also to write something every month! The Editor has been known to get carried away in the spirit of helping out and in her enthusiasm, sometimes over commits. However, the following article is serious. For future monthly articles, we are looking to our many contributors. If monthly articles will help, we want to do our share to resolve this vexing problem. Send articles to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com—Please.

Yet another complaint regarding animal waste was lodged at the Town Council Meeting on May 13, 2013. The Council expressed frustration at not being able to control the situation. Neighbors are disgusted and outraged at other neighbors' inconsiderate animal management practices. A few months back, one town resident wrote a tongue in cheek article about dog waste for *The Echo*. Most residents expressed

approval of the article. Only one objection was registered and that had to do with the space *The Echo* devoted to the essay. The resident who believed the article was too long said dogs do not come down her street (Wellesley Circle) or, at least do not create a problem. We need to learn and use whatever methods she is using to keep pests away—I'm speaking of owners, not necessarily animals.

Many residents place the blame squarely on Bannockburn and Fairway Hills citizens, assuming their own Glen Echo neighbors would not act so thoughtlessly. Others believe they know the culprits and are on the look out for owners with unleashed pets or hands empty of plastic bags while walking dogs. Observers note that offenders walk early in the morning or late at night in the belief they will not be seen as they break County laws. Montgomery County Code, Chapter 5, applies to Glen Echo.

At one time, we had an animal control officer in Town and I am told that she was so effective that the "animals turned themselves into her." There seems to be no interest by the Mayor and Council to renew that post and no one has asked the County to provide pro-active enforcement. Neither has the County offered any animal control services. So we are on our own. Shall we have a neighborhood animal watch? Implement stakeouts at the Town entrances along MacArthur Boulevard? The Mayor did suggest that she would contact the newsletter editor in Bannockburn to ask that notice be given to their readers.

In case the offenders are not all from the other side of MacArthur Boulevard, we need to capture offending animal owners at the site of the crime. Perhaps we should keep cameras at the ready to snap photos of the scofflaws. Cats are on the hook, too, since the complainant at the Council meeting was also distressed about cats urinating on flowers, therefore, destroying her garden. But the county laws are more lenient on cats, so cameras may not work there.

Let's continue to ask our neighbors to be responsible, thoughtful and considerate. No one likes animal waste in his yard or on his sidewalk. Not even the perpetrators. Cats notwithstanding, anyone who isn't picking up after his or her animal is breaking the law. Knock it off!

Glen Echo Park Activities

The Puppet Co.

Bathtub Pirates

June 13–June 30

Tiny Tots

On select Wednesdays, Saturdays,
and Sundays at 10 am

See www.thepuppetco.org

or call 301-634-5380

Adventure Theatre MTC

Dr. Seuss's Cat in the Hat Adventure

June 21–September 2

See www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org

or call 301-634-2270

Art Walk in the Park

June 14, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm

See www.glenechopark.org/art-walk-park

Watch for Next Meeting on Gas Lines

The Mayor announced, at the budget hearing, that she will schedule a meeting with Washington Gas to get clarification on certain costs associated with installing gas lines. The Washington Gas representative has been invited to meet with the Council twice, but was unable to attend either of those meetings, one of which was the annual budget meeting. Members of the Council expressed concern about the ambiguities regarding cost of the permit and installation of the lines. The Mayor said she was going to schedule another meeting with Washington Gas, which will be open to the public. A tentative date of June 3 was mentioned, but cannot be scheduled until Washington Gas agrees to attend the event, since most questions must be answered by them. According to Town Clerk, Nicole Fraser, a flyer will be sent to residents once the date is set.

If citizens have questions, it may be useful to send them to Town Hall via email prior to the meeting. If questions are received ahead of time, the Mayor and Council can pose them in a systematic way in order to get the most out of the meeting. This would not preclude citizens from asking questions from the floor as is the usual custom in Glen Echo. Send emails to TownHall@GlenEcho.org.

Preventing Wildlife Damage

by Melinda Myers



They're cute, they're furry and they love to eat—your landscape that is. If you are battling with rabbits, deer, groundhogs or other wildlife, don't give up.

A wireless deer fence is effective for deer. Scare tactics such as motion sensitive sprinklers, blow up owls, clanging pans and rubber snakes strategically placed around a garden may help scare away small critters. Move and alternate the scare tactics for more effective control. The animals won't be afraid of an owl that hasn't moved in two weeks.

Homemade and commercial repellents also work. These are best applied before the animals start feeding. It is easier to prevent damage than break old feeding patterns. Look for natural products like those found in Messina Wildlife's Animal Stopper line. They are made of herbs and smell good, so they repel animals without repelling you.

The key to success is variety, persistence, and adaptability.

More tips are at www.melindamyers.com.