

# The Echo

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



**July 2013**

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## **Gas Line, MacArthur Boulevard, Other Issues Discussed**

**By Phyllis Fordham**

Amid heavy thunderstorms, the Town Council met on June 10, 2013. All members except Mr. Stiglitz were present. They discussed a number of issues and introduced topics which require some research and thought before decisions are made.

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

The Mayor noted the absence of a Glen Echo Park representative and announced that Aaron LaRocca was not there to provide the usual report. Mr. LaRocca was Acting Park Site Manager until May 18. Although not still working in that capacity, at the last Council meeting, he said he would continue to assume the site manager's responsibilities until another manager was named. The Mayor stated that we need

a Park representative to attend Council meetings and that the Town should contact the Park to request representation at the meetings. "We cannot let this go" she said, mentioning the many ways in which the Park affects the Town.

Park issues continued as a focus of the meeting. All Council Members stated that they had not seen any problems during the Washington Folk Festival.

Council Member Long reported that bamboo that was cut in the Park was transported to the National Zoo to feed the pandas.

### ***Impact of the Shared Use Path Plan***

Nancy Long brought up the planned infrastructure changes to MacArthur Boulevard. It appears as if more trees will be removed from the Park than first believed. Markers on the site give clues to the swath

*CONTINUED on page 3*

# THE ECHO

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**Next Deadline:** July 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.

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**Next Town Council Meeting**  
**July 8, 2013, at 8 pm**

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that will be cut along Park property. There will be a bypass of the creek at least during construction and “we do not know the specifics,” she said. Ms. Long also mentioned her concern about the effects of the Shared Use Path construction on the area between Harvard Avenue and Oxford Road, where the Town right of way includes two drainage barriers. She said that we need representatives from Montgomery County to come back for further discussion about the project. One resident in the audience stated that the changes to MacArthur were “not a safety improvement” and the County’s attitude seemed to be “to hell with what residents want.” Ms. Long said she will contact the County and request another presentation to the Town when residents will also be invited.

**Construction Disruption**

Resident and builder Matt McFarland discussed construction traffic on University Avenue and Harvard Avenue. His company, McFarland Woods Inc., is working on the site of the former Baptist Church Annex, which is on the corner of that intersection. There will be at least a week when two dumpsters will be on the site. The building requires excavation, underpinning and regrading, which should take three to four weeks. Traffic control measures and notification to residents were considered by the Council in order to ameliorate the congestion that will occur. One idea was to eliminate right-hand turns from Harvard Avenue onto University Avenue at times when construction equipment and trucks are at their peak. There will be only one day when traffic on Harvard Avenue will have to be completely diverted. Mr. McFarland will work with Nicole Fraser, Town Clerk, to make sure all possible means are taken to lessen disruption. Construction on the project will be finished by Christmas. McFarland assured the Council that there will be minimal change to the mass of the building—unlike the new house on Princeton Avenue that has caused many residents to question the building approval process. A cupola on the Baptist Church Annex will be changed but otherwise the structure will appear to be the same size as it is now.

**Washington Gas**

The Mayor has received no response to her request that a Washington Gas representative appear before the Council to provide updates on the progress of a feasibility study that presumably is underway. The Council has many questions about the progress, cost, and possible timing of the gas line project and has not gotten satisfactory answers. Mayor Beers said she would send a letter to Senator Brian Frosh to ask for his assistance in getting Washington Gas to be responsive. There are residents who have to make decisions about replacing their home heating and cooling equipment now. Those decisions are dependent on the likelihood of the gas lines installation.

**Tax Rate**

The Town Clerk sent a letter to the County, as required by law, to advise that the tax rate for the upcoming year will be .14 per \$100 of assessed value for FY 2013–2014. At one time it was thought that the new rate would be .1413, but that was not accurate. The difference between a rate of .14 and .1413 is about \$10 a property annually.

**Paving and Drainage on Radcliffe Lane**

In May, property owner Alec Graham, who lives on Radcliffe Lane, wrote to the Council requesting permission to pave a portion of property that abuts that lane and is now covered with gravel. The area is

CONTINUED on Page 4

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CONTINUED from Page 3

owned by the Town, but he has maintained it, replacing gravel for many years. In his letter of May 21, 2013, Mr. Graham pointed out that other streets in Town are paved so that residents can park on those streets. He stated that he once asked the Town to pave this area during a street repair project but the Town refused, although the Town does own this right of way. Recently, the issue came up when Graham, at his own expense, was going to pave the area over rather than continue to replace the gravel as he has done in past years. After one Council Member saw the construction equipment, the Town advised him to stop the contractor who was excavating the site, which he did. Mr. Graham then appealed to the Council to correct the problem by either permitting the work or, preferably, by permitting and paying for the work. Prior to this meeting, the Mayor had asked Councilmember Matt Stiglitz to prepare two Memoranda of Understanding that would cover either option. At the meeting, however, the Council became engaged in another discussion about Radcliffe Lane focusing on drainage problems created by runoff from Cornell Avenue and Wellesley Circle, which are exacerbated by debris that collects at Radcliffe Lane. In his letter, Mr. Graham asked that the Town take several actions to alleviate future blockages and overflow, including excavation of “a significant drainage route where the ditch flow enters above and into the ravine.” The Mayor directed Nicole Fraser to work with Mark Peyton, who has agreed to clean out stopped-up drainage repositories that cause surface flooding on Radcliffe Lane on a regular basis. Certain questions about the paving project appeared to go unanswered. In one instance, Steve Matney expressed skepticism about the size of the area described in both memoranda which was “40 feet long at its longest point” and “19 feet wide,” wondering if it was really this large. No vote was taken on either document.

**Town Hall Use Privileges May Change**

The Mayor and Council entered into a discussion about Town Hall use as it is apportioned be-

tween residents and non-residents. Currently, Town residents are afforded three free uses of Town Hall each year for private events of their own choosing. Nonresidents can request use of Town Hall for a fee, currently \$500 per use. There was discussion as to whether residents took precedence over non-residents for weekend events, leading to agreement that the rules and regulations governing use of Town Hall needed review since they have not been rewritten since 2001. Items such as cost and resident preference will be taken up next month. By way of comparison, Garrett Park Town Hall charges \$400; Bethesda Women’s club charges \$500–\$625 per event depending on use of the club kitchen. The Council will also review fees to nonprofit groups who now pay \$50 if the event is open to residents and \$100 if not. It was noted that as a rule, residents leave the hall in better condition than non-residents.



**Real Estate Report**

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July 2013 at  
**REDEEMER**

■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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

■ UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Labyrinth Walks with Contemplative Music  
Monday, July 1 – Monday, September 2, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 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**  
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www.redeemberbethesda.org

# AROUND TOWN

**Tom Helf** is performing with members of Cravin' Dogs at two events. See *Local Events* on page 9.

**Raya Bodnarchuk's** sculptures are on display at the Katzen Arts Center. See page 7.

**C&O Canal Association** is seeking volunteers for a number of positions, including work parties at Swain's Lock and Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Work Sessions. For more detailed information see [www.candoassociation.org](http://www.candoassociation.org). Other volunteer opportunities include staff positions for buildings at Georgetown and Great Falls and Boat Crew Members at Great Falls. Training is provided when required.

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**Police Report**  
One police officer spent 4 hours monitoring traffic and stop sign compliance on Oxford Road from May 14 to June 9. He issued 13 warnings and 4 citations. The officers will begin monitoring summer camp drop offs and pickups during the July reporting period.



**Annual Summer Picnic**  
Sunday, July 14, from 5 to 7pm  
**Town Hall**  
Bring desserts to share and optionally alcoholic beverages, picnic blanket, chairs  
Town provides fajitas, quesadillas, cups, plates, utensils, water, sodas, ice  
Cleanup volunteers always appreciated  
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## Artist Raya Bodnarchuk at the American University Museum's Katzen Arts Center

Raya Bodnarchuk's show entitled FORM, featuring a number of her sculptures, is at the American University Museum, Katzen Arts Center, at 4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW until August 11, 2013. The show opened with an Artist's Reception on June 15. A gallery talk by Ms. Bodnarchuk will be presented on July 27 at 4 pm and there will be a closing reception on August 10 at 5 pm.

Ms. Bodnarchuk's works are included in many public and private collections. Her public art commissions include those for the Forest Glen Pedestrian Bridge, WSSC Plaza, and National Institutes of Health. Other sculptures can be seen at the Montgomery County Public Library (Potomac Branch) and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Many of her works are in private collections.

Raya is a long-time resident of Glen Echo and has been an Associate Professor at the Corcoran College of Art and Design since 1983. She served as Artist in Residence for Glen Echo Park from 1974 to 1987. She has also been a generous volunteer for the Town and for *The Echo* for many years.



3 Aluminum Cats, 1977. Aluminum.



Paulownia Dogs: Round Ears, Standing, and Straight Out, 2001. Paulownia and ebony.

### Volunteer NOW

*The Echo* is looking for photographers, reporters, substitute reporters, copy editors, and delivery and distribution staff. Flexible hours; no pay, but lots of thanks from your neighbors—the work can take as little as 5 hours a year or as much as 5 hours a month.

Please contact Phyllis Fordham by email at [TheEchoEditor@gmail.com](mailto:TheEchoEditor@gmail.com) or call 301-263-0552.



Red Dog, 2000. Paulownia.

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**NANNY AVAILABLE.** Our marvelous nanny, Monica, will be available weekday mornings in July and in the fall for child care and housecleaning. Call Monica at 703-899-0366 or Julie Rosenthal at 202-486-3059 or email [julie@jrrcommunications.com](mailto:julie@jrrcommunications.com).

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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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## LOCAL EVENTS

### Montgomery County Public Libraries

#### Summer Reading

June 1–August 15

Two *Summer Reading* programs, *Dig into Reading* (children) and *Beneath the Surface* (teens) will run from June 1 to August 15. Registration is online only through [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library). Participants can sign up for the program and log the books they read using any computer in the library, at home, or at school or using any mobile device. *Summer Reading* is sponsored by Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. Those who participate are eligible for free Frederick Keys baseball tickets on August 11 or 18.

### Cravin' Dogs

#### Quarry House Tavern

Saturday, July 27

Tom Helf is performing with Cravin' Dogs at the Quarry House Tavern (8401 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring) from 9 pm to 1 am. For more information see [www.quarryhousetavern.com](http://www.quarryhousetavern.com).

### Fillmore in Silver Spring

Saturday, August 3

Tom Helf will participate in the *BandHouse Gig's Tribute to the Rolling Stones* at the Fillmore in Silver Spring, together with fellow Cravin' Dogs John Penovich and Todd Baker. For information and tickets see [www.fillmoresilverspring.com/event-calendar](http://www.fillmoresilverspring.com/event-calendar).

### Redeemer Church

#### Summertime Labyrinth Walks

Mondays, 7:00–8:00 pm (beginning July 1)

Completed in Fall 2010, Redeemer's stone labyrinth is modeled after the 13th century labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. This summer, we invite you to participate in weekly labyrinth walks accompanied by recorded and, on occasion, live contemplative music. The walks will take place from

## 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, July 8, 8 pm

Town Picnic  
Sunday, July 14, 5 pm

C&O Canal Association Board  
Meeting  
Sunday, August 4, 1 pm

7:00 to 8:00 pm, beginning Monday, July 1. They will continue through Labor Day, Monday, September 2. Come when you can; leave when you must.

### Seventh Annual Summer Music Camp 2013: Registration Open Until July 18

Monday, August 5, through Friday, August 9,  
10 am to 2:30 pm

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. Contact Thomas Smith, Director of Music at 301-229-3770 or email [music.redeemer@verizon.com](mailto:music.redeemer@verizon.com).

## Glen Echo Park Activities

### **The Puppet Co.**

*Dinosaur Babies*

July 5–28

*Tiny Tots*

On select Wednesdays, Saturdays,  
and Sundays at 10 am

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### **Adventure Theatre MTC**

*Dr. Seuss's Cat in the Hat Adventure*

June 21–September 2

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

or call 301-634-2270

### **80th Anniversary of the Spanish Ballroom**

June 29, 11:30 am–5 pm

### **Free Concert Series**

July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

7:30–8:30 pm

Bumper Car Pavilion

### **Family Jazz Day**

July 21, 3 pm

Bumper Car Pavilion

See [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or call 202-634-2222

## Welcome Newcomers

By **Carlotta Anderson**

Maybe it's better nutrition, or maybe it's evolution, but more and more new residents are finding that Glen Echo houses, charming though they may be, were not built for occupants of their stature. At six feet four inches, Jeff Jensen already had to duck beneath doorframes on the upper floor of his house at 12 Wellesley Circle when he moved here last September—and that was before raising the floor two inches to level the staircase.

Jeff and his wife, Elissa, moved to Glen Echo from a condo in D.C. near the Takoma metro station. Four months later, they welcomed the birth of their son, Reed, born January 15 at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. Due to his premature birth, Reed spent the next three months in the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where Elissa stayed with him every day.

An added trauma for the Jensens occurred shortly after Reed's birth, when a pipe behind the dishwasher froze and broke, flooding the crawl space. It took

nearly a month to pump all the water and moisture out of the crawl space and install new insulation.

The Jensens met in 2007 while attending graduate school at Duke University. Jeff majored in economics at Carleton College in Minnesota and earned master's degrees in environmental management and public policy at Duke, while Elissa majored in biology and psychology at Claremont McKenna College in California and earned a master's in environmental management at Duke. Elissa works as a public health advisor for USAID, focusing on malaria control strategies in Africa, but has taken a one-year sabbatical to care for Reed. Jeff works in Georgetown for Keybridge Research, a small economics and public policy consulting firm. Most days, Jeff bikes to work using the MacArthur Blvd bike lane and the Capital Crescent Trail.

Both Jeff and Elissa have participated in several triathlons and intend to keep up that hobby once Reed is a little older. After attending the Town's pancake breakfast, they want to be more active in community events and hope to meet more residents during neighborhood strolls with Reed.

Welcome to Glen Echo, Elissa and Jeff.