

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered 1904



February 2014

January Town Council Meeting

By Ellen Leary

Vassar Circle Plans Dominate Agenda

The monthly Town Council meeting on January 20 was well-attended by residents. All Councilpersons, Mayor Beers, as well as Norman Knopf and Benjamin Arem, the Town attorneys, were present.

For the third month in a row, the agenda was dominated by the issue of the subdivision and development of the property at 2 Vassar Circle. Resident Aaron Hirsch, who is the owner of the property known as the Baptist Annex and the developer of the Vassar Circle property, sent a letter dated December 21, 2013, to the Town, suggesting he would be able to reduce the number of houses on the Vassar property from four to three, with the fourth "lot" (actually an easement on the adjoining three lots) becoming a dedicated park for the use of all Town residents. In exchange, Mr. Hirsh wanted the Town to transfer

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to him an unused lot it owns on Oberlin Avenue. He would begin development on that property immediately, while awaiting subdivision approval for the Vassar property

The Council appeared skeptical of this approach. Mayor Beers pointed out that the lot on Oberlin Avenue was 9,000 square feet, and the proposed Vassar easement could be only 4,500 square feet, or less, making it an uneven swap, even taking into

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THE ECHO

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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 Council member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.

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Next Town Council Meeting
February 10, 2014, at 8 pm

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consideration that the property on Oberlin Avenue could have less intrinsic value. Councilman Matney stated that the Town wouldn't be interested in an easement in return for a fee simple transaction although an actual land swap might be considered in the future. The Council made it clear that the Town, at this time, is not prepared to pay for a survey and assessment of the Oberlin Avenue property without more facts regarding the development of 2 Vassar Circle, including the actual value of the lots. The actual value cannot be determined before more studies are completed, including a land survey and engineering studies that will reveal the maximum development potential for the church property.

Norman Knopf pointed out that the Town's survey of the property on Vassar was underway, with the results due around February 1, at which time the Council would address the issues of parking and roadway planning. At the last meeting, the Council authorized this survey to determine precise boundaries of the private versus the public land. One reason for the survey is to determine the availability of land to accommodate the Vassar Circle roadway if it is widened for safety reasons. The developer of the property would be asked to contribute a portion of the needed land. That dedication will have a potential impact on the lot sizes of the subdivided Vassar property.

Mr. Hirsch pointed out that he has to begin the subdivision process with the County immediately. Norman Knopf stated that the subdivision process alone will most likely take 18-24 months, if not longer. Vassar Circle resident Renny Springuel expressed dismay that the Town Council was treating the whole issue as a "done deal." He said the residents of Vassar Circle do not want houses built that would dominate the existing properties.

The issue of the maximum height of the proposed houses was discussed, with a suggestion that if the property was subdivided into three lots, the height of the houses could be brought down by building out on the first story. A suggestion was made that perhaps bungalow-style homes would be more appropriate. The Mayor pointed out that any restrictions that the

Town could impose, including height limits, must apply to the entire Town and would have to be carefully considered. She again mentioned that Montgomery County has zoning authority, not the Town, and that neither the County nor the Town has architectural controls over building.

It was determined that until the developer's plans are further along and the survey of the Vassar property is finished, there is not enough information for the Council to consider. The developer is currently working on engineering plans for the property but there are no completed architectural drawings. Mayor Beers and Mr. Knopf encouraged Mr. Hirsch to continue with his subdivision process and keep the Town informed as he progresses.

Glen Echo Park

Glen Echo Park representative Aaron La Rocca reported that the Hall of Mirrors will be undergoing renovation. All improvements will be compatible with the historic architecture of the Park. The National Park Service (NPS) is working on creating a native plant garden in the living classroom, replacing the bamboo that was removed last year.

The use of the Candy Corner building is under discussion. During winter months it is used by the Playgroup in the Park. The NPS hopes to use the space from Family Day to the Labor Day Art Show as a visitor contact space. The NPS is also working with the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and

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Culture to extend the hours of the carousel, allowing it to operate on Fridays in May and June.

Christy Hughes, owner of the Irish Inn at Glen Echo, addressed the Council regarding parking problems at his restaurant, noting that he has lost 14 spaces on Tulane Avenue and 4 in front of his deck because of government regulations. And although all parking at the Inn is by valet, he has recently been turning away customers due to lack of parking at times.

It was pointed out that the Tulane Avenue parking was never legal and that, as with all other streets in Glen Echo, there is parking only on one side of the street. Mr. Hughes offered some suggestions, such as making it permit-only parking. Steve Matney pointed out the difficulty and expense of enforcing permit parking.

Mr. Hughes currently rents the "pipestem" of a lot owned by the Town, located on Oberlin Avenue. The property is used for parking by the Inn and is rented on a month-to-month basis. Mayor Beers agreed to negotiate a longer lease, and suggested that Mr. Hughes get together with Aaron LaRocca to discuss how the NPS may be able to help him out with parking. It appears that many of the Park employees park on Oberlin and Tulane Avenues, which adds to the parking shortage.

Gas Conversion Update

There will be a special meeting with Washington Gas in the Town Hall on February 27. Construction scheduling and specifics will be discussed. The work will begin in April, starting on Wellesley Circle.

Residents have already started getting quotes on equipment conversion within their homes. Resident Renny Springuel noted that not all contractors interviewed are quoting the removal of the existing oil tank in their contracts, so purchasers should be sure to check this aspect of any offer. He also said that if any property will be using a generator, or getting one later, the owner should specify the need for a high pressure line. Griffith, one of the contractors, is in fact recommending that everyone go with a high pressure line, said Mr. Springuel.

Police Report

Councilman Matt Stiglitz, liaison to the Montgomery County Police Department, reported that the Department is urging caution in using Craig's List to sell items, particularly cell phones and vehicles, as there has been an uptick in robberies and threats of assault using this venue. He also mentioned that there has been a string of pharmacy robberies in the County, particularly older pharmacies that are less likely to lock up narcotics.

In other announcements, Mr. Stiglitz said that the fine for cell phone usage while driving will be going up to \$83, and will be more heavily enforced. Cameras are being installed on all County school busses for safety purposes. Overall, crime is down in every respect except commercial and school burglary.

Willard Rockwell

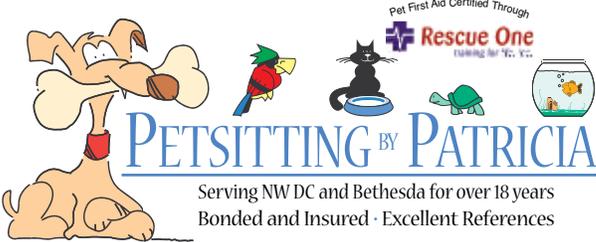
On December 30, 2013, Glen Echo resident Willard Allen Rockwell died at home with his wife Jeanette, daughter Beth, granddaughter Kate, and son-in-law, Jim, at his side. In addition to those family members, he is survived by his grandson, Malcolm. Survivors also include his son, Christopher and his wife, Susan from Williamsburg, VA., and their sons, Christopher and his wife, Alyssa, and James. Mr. Rockwell, who would have turned 94 on January 16th, moved to Glen Echo in 2008 with Jeanette from Falmouth, MA. He was an avid curler, pick-up hockey player, and golfer in his earlier years. In his later years, he became a dedicated fan of Patriot and Redskins football and any hockey game he could get on the NHL channel. In his working life, Mr. Rockwell was an electronics salesman for Bendix and GE. He will also be greatly missed by the cat and dogs, who found comfort in his lap.

Interment occurred at Holy Redeemer Church and a memorial service will take place in the Spring.

Gas: Important Upcoming Meeting for Residents

There will be a community meeting on February 27 at 8 pm in Town Hall during which Washington Gas construction representatives will update residents on the progress of gas line installation. More information about the upcoming registration process will be discussed. A tentative construction start date has been set for mid-April. Nicole Fraser will have several forms for interested residents to review. One will be the so-called load letter, which is a formal request for service. That form will allow residents to identify the gas usage each household anticipates, such as gas heat, cooking, fireplace, etc.

A second form will be provided and ultimately will be attached to a property plat submitted by the homeowner to Washington Gas. On this form, residents will be asked to respond to questions about landscaping, overhead utility lines, drainage systems and invisible pet fencing. While Washington Gas will have information about underground lines from surveys through Miss Utility, other conditions should be identified by the homeowner. For instance, information about underground sprinkler systems, patios, and the like will help to make the initial engineering plans more accurate. There is a tentative work session scheduled for February 14 at 8:30 am between Washington Gas and Council members. Residents may attend but will not be invited to comment at that work session.



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Police Report

Two off-duty Montgomery County police officers monitored traffic on Oxford Road during the period from December 9 to January 12. They spent a total of 10 hours and issued 30 warnings and 5 citations.

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O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

- **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 for All Ages	10:30 a.m.

- **UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

Monday, February 3, at 7:30 p.m.
 Contemplative Service in the Style of Taizé

Sunday, February 9, at 5:00 p.m.
 British Organist Simon Thomas Jacobs in Concert

Sunday, March 9, at 5:00 p.m.
 Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard
 Bethesda, Maryland 20816
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 www.redeemberbethesda.org

IN MEMORIAM

By Jan Shaut

Jim Shaut, a resident of Glen Echo for over 33 years, died on November 14, 2013, at his home on Harvard Avenue. Jim grew up in upstate New York. He was one of eleven children in a family with nine boys. He moved to Washington, DC, in an effort to further develop his personal goals and to escape the horrible winters that plagued Utica, New York.

Jim was a character in his own right. He loved to make others laugh. He did this by teasing and making fun of others in a playful way. He rarely referred to anyone by their given name; he was a guy who loved nick names. Jim loved the companionship of others and could often be found sitting on his front porch visiting with family, neighbors, and friends. There, he would tell stories, talk politics, and listen to music.

Jim loved sports. He jumped at the chance to teach his children and others how to play golf, basketball, and lacrosse. He enjoyed watching a good game of football in the fall, basketball in the winter, or golf and lacrosse in the spring. An important Shaut tradition was to spend Father's Day watching the US Open with the family, followed by a delicious dinner.

In Jim's professional life, he was a partner in a firm that performed pre-purchase home inspections. He was an inspector for over 30 years. Prior to that work, he attended Catholic University to study architecture. He worked for Case Design in the remodeling division as a carpenter and as a project designer, where he met his wife Jan over 40 years ago.

In addition to his wife, Jan, Jim left three children: Neil E. Shaut (Colleen) of Cabin John, Robert P. Shaut of Bethesda, and Chelsea M. Shaut of American University Park, Washington, DC. He has one grandson, Finn Aiden, of Cabin John. Also left behind is his wonderful Austrian Shepherd, Mya, who helped him entertain on the front porch.

Jim loved everything about Glen Echo. He enjoyed the people, the small town atmosphere, and the happiness that exists because we all are so fortunate to be a part of this wonderful community that gives over and over.

I want to say a special thank you to all the wonderful people of Glen Echo who reached out to our family following Jim's death. Those brought us tales of their encounters with Jim, and flowers, fruit, soups, desserts and wonderful meals. These expressions of condolence made us feel so loved and supported. We can't thank you enough. The support you offered has helped us as we put one foot ahead of the next and begin our long journey to recovery.



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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

Ladies Night

on Thursday,

February 13, at 8 pm

At the home of

Debbie Beers

29 Wellesley Circle

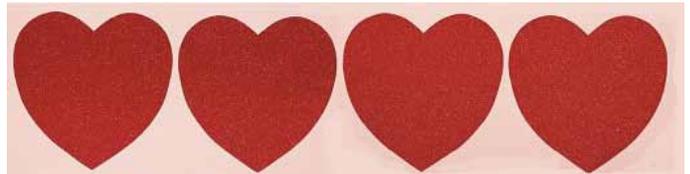
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Piano lessons: \$30/hour. I have been playing the piano for 30 years. I love to play and would love to teach piano to your children or to you. Please call Stephanie Rhein at 301-229-7910 if interested.

Babysitting: I am a responsible Whitman student available for babysitting. I passed the SafeSitter course at Suburban Hospital. Call Annie at 301-922-7840 or email at annieb1999@gmail.com

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and \$1.50 per line for non-residents. Display ads are \$5 per vertical inch. Send your classified ad to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com. Send your display ad to EchoAdRep@gmail.com. Deadline for ads is the 15th of each month.

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Peter Somerville

Glen Echo resident Peter Somerville died at home on January 19, 2014, after a long struggle with Multiple System Atrophy, a rare disease. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Lange, his children Annabel Somerville and her husband Christopher Symons of Australia, Robert Lange and his wife Lena Yanakova, and Michelle Lange, his grandchildren Sasha and Niki Lange, and his sister Jan Brown and her husband Rob Brown of England. A Celebration of Life service was held at Adventure Theatre on January 26. Contributions to honor Peter may be made to Adventure Theatre/MTC.

LOCAL EVENTS

C&O Canal Activities

Eagle Watch

Sunday, March 1, 10 am–12 pm

Class session followed by a hike to view nest on Conn Island. Reservation required. Lecture at Great Falls Tavern. Contact Rebecca_jameson@nps.gov.

Church of the Redeemer

Concert Organist Simon Thomas Jacobs

Sunday, February 9, at 5 pm

British organist Simon Thomas Jacobs, First Prize Winner at the 2013 St. Albans International Organ Competition, performs works by J.S. Bach, César Franck, Franz Liszt, and William Walton. Free-will offering.

Clara Barton National Historic Site

Volunteer Guide Intake Day

Saturday, February 22, 1:30 pm–3 pm

National Park Service staff presents information on opportunities and training for those with an interest in volunteering at the site. Flyers are available at Town Hall. Call to make reservation at 301-320-1417.



Real Estate Report

6001 Bryn Mawr Ave	\$1,574,000	For Sale
7311 University	\$1,099,000	For Sale
2 Vassar Circle	\$1,749,000	Under contract

GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

These events are free to Town residents.

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

FSGW Family Dance
Sunday, February 9, 3 pm

Eistophos Club Meeting
Friday, February 14, 1 pm

Balkan Region Acapella Choir
Saturday, February 22, 8 pm

Washington Gas Community Meeting
February 27, 8 pm

Save the Date

The annual Saint Patrick’s Day Party is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, at Town Hall. Once more, former Town resident Kate Horwitz is organizing the event. To volunteer, contact Nicole Fraser at townhall@glenecho.org or call 301-320-4041.



Glen Echo Park Activities

The Puppet Co.

Tales of Beatrix Potter

Jan. 17–Feb. 9

Sleeping Beauty

Feb. 13–March 23

Tiny Tots

Select Weds, Sats, and Suns at 10 am

See www.thepuppetco.org

or call 301-634-5380

Adventure Theatre MTC

Miss Nelson is Missing

Jan. 17–Mar. 9

See www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org

or call 301-634-2270

February Eistophos Club Meeting

By Pam Mason

In the late 1800's several new women's clubs were established across the country for women interested in science. Women in science were often left out of mainstream science and at that time were a highly segregated outlet in the science world. Washington, DC, and Chicago were the two centers of this women's scientific sub-culture. Several clubs were established in Washington, DC. By 1871 the Women's Anthropological Society was already ongoing. The Women's National Science Club (WNSC) was formed in 1891 as an outcome of the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Washington. WNSC was active with about 200 members from all over the country. The club held meetings and published papers in its Proceedings publication and in its bimonthly journal. However, in 1899 the club abruptly ceased operations for unknown reasons. After the club closed, the original group reformed but with lower expectations. Thoughts of a national club were abandoned. A local Washington, DC, club called Eistophos was launched.

Eistophos Science Club of Women has proven to be much more long lasting. Eistophos meets monthly around the area in member homes. Members are interested in keeping the club's history alive and meticulous records are maintained all the way back to the late 1800's. Eistophos Club routinely adds in-

formation and materials to the Eistophos Collection at the Library of Congress and the Washingtoniana Collection at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

On February 14, 2014, at 1:00 pm Eistophos will be meeting in the Glen Echo Town Hall. Several women living in Glen Echo are members and we invite you to join us at the meeting. We encourage any woman with an interest in science to join Eistophos! Come to our February meeting to learn more!

Keeping in Touch with Neighbors

There are two sources for Town notices and information between *The Echo* issues. The official email list for the Town provides up-to-the-minute changes about events, announcements, the Council agenda, and other information. The Clerk–Treasurer, Nicole Fraser, issues these notices and you can join by sending an email to townhall@glenecho.org.

The other is operated as a Yahoo group, glenecho@yahoo.com. To subscribe, insert the following address in your computer browser: GlenEcho-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Information regarding subscribing or unsubscribing is found on the back cover of Jane's Directory, the unofficial telephone directory for Town residents. If you have difficulty subscribing, contact the site administrator, Dan Macy, at dan@macy.com. At this Yahoo site, you can post information that may be of interest to your neighbors, such as a lost cat, a housekeeper with a free day, or an item to give away or sell.