

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered 1904



May 2014

Town Council Breezes Through April Meeting

By Beth Rockwell

The April Council meeting had fewer monumental subjects on the agenda but 14 residents showed up, perhaps because they have acquired an attendance habit; the last several meetings included the hot topics of property development and gas lines and Town permits for those lines.

Present were Debbie Beers, Mayor; Council Members Nancy Long, Matt Stiglitz, and Steve Matney; and Town Clerk-Treasurer, Nicole Frazer.

Aaron LaRocca of the National Park Service (NPS) was given the floor at the beginning of the meeting to provide his report.

Glen Echo Park Report

Reorganization: Mr. LaRocca explained how budget constraints have influenced the NPS reorganization

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plan. One result is that Glen Echo interpreters (Park historians) will be regrouped into a larger consortium that will service numerous sites along the George Washington National Parkway, including Glen Echo, Clara Barton House, and Great Falls Park. LaRocca will be the temporary interpretive supervisor for the North District and continue to represent the NPS at the Glen Echo Town meetings. Onsite maintenance and curatorial staffs will be realigned under the offsite maintenance and resource management divisions. Of concern to Mayor Beers and Councilmem-

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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 Budget Hearing
May 12, 2014, at 8 pm May 26 at 7 pm

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ber Long is that there will no longer be an onsite manager. Mayor Beers asked that it be noted that the Town would prefer an on-site manager and that Mr. LaRocca relay that message to Park officials.

Upcoming Dates: The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture will hold a fundraising gala on May 17 and Mayor Beers encouraged attendance.

Other Agenda Items

After the Park report, the agenda was introduced. Immediately dropped was a presentation of Mr. Stiglitz’s screened porch plans due to lack of a permit at the time of the meeting. The permit applicant for an expansion of 6000 Bryn Mawr Avenue was not present for a presentation. The Mayor stated that the Bryn Mawr plans are of concern to the Town as the property footprint is smaller than the normally required 5,000 square feet. Although the plan was approved by the County, the Town may decide to fight it as approval sets a precedent for building outside the original footprint of the houses built on smaller lots.

The Town Budget

While the budget itself was not discussed, the Mayor announced that Glen Echo must approve future budgets by ordinance and may no longer approve a budget by resolution. This will change the time frame due to required citizen notice when adopting or amending an ordinance. Renny Springuel asked for an explanation. The Mayor stated that all towns have been advised by the State that they must approve budgets by ordinance in an effort to standardize the process across the state. The County would like the Glen Echo tax report by May 14 but with the requirement that this must be advertised as an ordinance, that date is impossible to meet for this year. A date for the budget hearing was set for 7 pm on May 26. Each year Glen Echo holds a hearing on the proposed budget which is open to the public. That meeting is then immediately adjourned and a second meeting is convened for the purpose of adopting the

budget. Only then can the Town send the tax rate to the County. Last year the Clerk–Treasurer made several overtures to residents prior to the budget hearing in order to solicit comment. Only a few comments were received.

The Street Ordinance

Portions of a new ordinance were read aloud by Mayor Beers and a summary was requested by a confused audience. Copies of the extensive preamble and the new ordinance will be sent to Town residents. Extensive discussion will be held on the plan that will affect residents of Vassar Circle and may influence the ability of the developer to build four houses on that property. Members of the area around Vassar Circle are extremely concerned about the safety of the circle residents. The Mayor mentioned her concern about adhering to the county requirement for 50 feet of right of way for a new subdivision. Fire Department and emergency response officials have also stated that 50 feet is a safety necessity. Numerous questions were asked, but little information was available at the time. Councilman Matney introduced a draft ordinance; Councilman Long seconded. A vote to accept the draft ordinance with a preamble passed unanimously.

Police Report

The police report also engendered discussion. Town members wanted to know the cost benefit of the use

CONTINUED on Page 4

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CONTINUED from Page 3

of police at the stop at the corner of Oxford Road and University Avenue when so few scofflaws are ticketed and Glen Echo receives nothing from the few fines collected. Councilman Stiglitz explained that warnings take less time to write than tickets and may ultimately have a greater impact since more people are stopped. The community is invited to provide feedback on this budget item.

Town Hall Use

Neighboring Cabin John has asked to use the Town Hall for its Blood Drive. After a lengthy discussion about safety concerns, Mayor Beers stated that it would be ungracious to refuse a favor of this kind to a neighbor. A compromise that included proof of insurance allowed a motion to be introduced by Stiglitz, seconded by Matney, and the motion passed by 3 to 1.

Town Picnic

The date of July 13 was chosen for the annual picnic on Town Hall grounds.

In Memory of

The council also voted into the Town record the recent deaths of Jim Shaut and Peter Somerville, both active members of the Glen Echo community for many years.

Bike Path and Access to MacArthur Boulevard

Numerous complaints were made by attendees about the incomplete bike path and the difficulty of ingress into and egress out of the community. LaRocca was asked to determine who to contact about the need to replace the bollards that help drivers distinguish sidewalk from road. Mayor Beers pointed out that Glen Echo has no authority in the matter, only a voice and that after 10 years of planning the path and constructing it, changes will not be made because Glen Echo does not like it. However, it was noted that egress is an issue to study. Councilmember Long did point out that crosswalks have not been repainted

and Mayor Beers will address that in a letter.

Town Clerk Position

Nicole Frazer is leaving her position as Town Clerk–Treasurer for a few years to move to Geneva, Switzerland, where her husband, Harvey Feldbaum, has taken a job. The news was sad but received with happiness for her family’s opportunity. Gloria Levin noted that Nicole was “absolutely terrific and a hard person to replace.” Frazer said that they would be returning to Glen Echo. The position will be advertised in *The Echo*.

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Palm Sunday – April 13	
Blessing of Palms, Procession & Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Blessing of Palms, Procession & Choral Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday – April 17	
Simple Supper	6:00 p.m.
Choral Eucharist with Washing of Feet	7:30 p.m.
Good Friday – April 18	
Stations of the Cross	12:00 p.m.
Musical Meditation: <i>Stabat Mater</i> by G.B. Pergolesi	12:45 p.m.
The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday	7:30 p.m.
Easter Eve – April 19	
The Great Vigil of Easter	8:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday – April 20	
Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Festal Eucharist of the Resurrection	10:30 a.m.
Hot Cross Buns & Easter Egg Hunt	12:00 p.m.

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Town Residents Receive County Award

The 2013 Golden Shovel award was presented to Beth Rockwell and Jim Ford from County Councilmember Nancy Floreen on April 22, 2014. Floreen said that the award has not been given for a few years since we had little or no snow after our bout with snowmageddon in 2010.

Last winter made up for the absence of snow in the prior years. Jim and Beth shoveled many sidewalks, walks, and a driveway or two after each snowstorm of the 2013–14 season. They had been stalwarts during the earlier years too, but perhaps the award was not so highly publicized so they were not nominated before this time.

This year, Town Clerk–Treasurer Nicole Fraser found the Golden Snow Shovel Awards information on a County website and forwarded that information to Town residents. Phyllis Fordham nominated Rockwell and Ford after watching them dig in snow after snow to free residents who might otherwise be

housebound or at least in violation of the ordinance that requires pavement clearing within 24 hours of a snowfall.

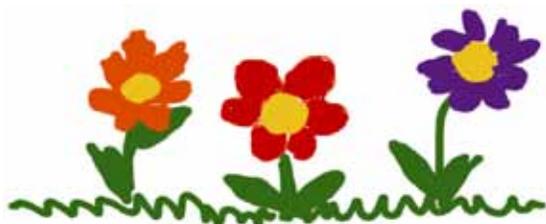
Ms. Rockwell received the certificates and the miniature gold colored shovels for both parties since her husband, Jim, was at his daytime job at American Plant. Rockwell promised to wear her Golden Shovel pin to school to demonstrate civic enthusiasm. Although she teaches English, there are many ways to find teachable moments.

Town residents are grateful to Beth and Jim who shoveled out those with bad backs, knees, and the like and did it for at least two blocks from their home. They were among the 111 residents who received the award, which is amazing, given the County population of over a million people.

While Beth and Jim received the award there were others in Town who helped neighbors by shoveling snow over the winter and Glen Echo is fortunate to have them. Perhaps those people will be nominated next year. It might also be OK if we just had a balmy winter with not much precipitation to hang around.



Nancy Floreen (center) presents the Golden Shovel award to county residents, including Beth Rockwell (second from the left).



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Gas Lines Come to Glen Echo

Washington Gas began laying down the pipes that will bring natural gas to the Town of Glen Echo.



photo: Debbie Lange

The digger digs a trench.



photo: Debbie Lange

Workers cover the pipe with gravel.

LOCAL EVENTS

C&O Canal Activities

Great Falls Tavern All Day Festival

Saturday, May 17, 11 am–3:45 pm

Events scheduled throughout the day. See www.CanDoCanal.org for more information.

GRATEFUL SHRED VII—a shredding party

Saturday, May 10, 9 am–12 noon

Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John, MD

Clean out home files and avoid fraud or identity theft. Bring those no-longer needed bills, statements, letters—anything with private, confidential, or sensitive information that you want to get rid of! Clean Cut Shredding can shred home office papers, paper clips, staples, rubber bands, folders, 3-ring binders, binder clips, hanging folders with metal strips, and labels. They don't do newspapers, cardboard, heavy plastic, heavy metals, boxes, trash, floppy disks, or CDs.

Please donate \$5 per cubic-foot box of paper, \$3 per half-box or \$2 per quarter-box. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center and all profits go to support programs at the Clara Barton Community Center. For more information, call the Center at 240-777-4910 or see www.friendsofclarabartoncommunitycenter.org/event.html.



photo: Edie Springuel

Workers lay a pipe in the trench.

Town Seeks Clerk–Treasurer Applicants

The Town of Glen Echo, Maryland is seeking applicants for the position of Town Clerk-Treasurer. The position is a part-time and paid. The appointment is made by the Mayor in consultation with the Town Council and is expected to begin this summer.

Duties of the Clerk–Treasurer include financial record keeping and reporting, interface with auditors, preparation of monthly budget, and payroll functions. The Town Clerk–Treasurer attends monthly meetings of the Mayor and Council and keeps all public records and official minutes of meetings.

The Clerk–Treasurer is responsible for procurement and execution of Town Contracts for service by independent contractors. The Clerk-Treasurer will also oversee property management functions for Town real estate including Town Hall.

The Clerk-Treasurer will respond to citizen complaints and suggestions and inform the Council of corrective actions, if any, as well as produce and manage Halloween and holiday parties and the Town Picnic, including recruitment and management of volunteers for these and other group events conducted on behalf of the Town and park maintenance.

Regular office hours will be held at Town Hall at least two mornings or afternoons a week.

Interested parties may obtain a full job description from Nicole Fraser at Town Hall and, if interested, should telephone Mayor Debbie Beers at home (301-229-7308) office (202-452-7919) or cell (301-509-0618) or send a resume to the Mayor at Town Hall, Glen Echo, MD 20812.

Police Report

Between March 10 and April 7, off-duty police issued 21 warnings and 6 citations for not stopping at the stop sign on Oxford Road. The Town paid \$360 for these services.

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

Ladies Night

on Tuesday,

May 13, at 8 pm

at the home of

Cathie Polak

6001 Princeton Avenue

RSVP: 301-229-6042

GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

These events are free to Town residents.

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Real Estate Report

6001 Bryn Mawr Ave	\$1,249,000	For Sale
7311 University Ave	\$1,074,900	Under Contract
44 Wellesley Circle	\$1,495,000	Under Contract

Vassar Circle Developer Holds Second Meeting

By Jim McGunnigle

On April 3 at Town Hall, resident and property developer Aaron Hirsch met again with Glen Echo residents concerned with the proposed development of Vassar Circle. For this meeting Mr. Hirsch was accompanied by Architect George Meyers of GTM Architects. As in a previous meeting, Curt Schreffler of CAS Engineering and Erin Girard of Attorneys Linowes and Blocher were also present.

Mr. Schreffler presented a modified site plan showing relocated driveways for the four houses planned for the site. The driveways would also be enlarged, allowing parking space for two cars as well as the one car garage originally planned. It was also indicated that no further parking could be contemplated as it would interfere with adequate storm water runoff. Also of concern to residents was the width of Vassar Circle. The engineering firm is waiting for a judgment from the fire department and others in the county concerned with emergency vehicle access. Mr. Schreffler also noted that the site plan would include a lowering of the level of the high end of the site. This would have the effect of bringing down the ridge line of some of the houses.

Mr. Meyers showed residents a drawing of possible designs for the houses intended for Vassar Circle. The houses would have a footprint of about 1,450 square feet and the total size of the houses would be about 3,400 square feet. The architect and Mr. Hirsch will vary the materials and color of the facades to provide a less uniform aspect.

Attorney Girard and Mr. Hirsch concluded the meeting by noting that it would be several months before the subdivision approval from the Planning Board and the actual go-ahead for building the houses could be expected. Mr. Hirsch particularly asked that Glen Echo residents urge the Town Council to support his plans as he is trying to adapt to some of the community concerns. He said he thought that if agreement on the plans could be reached, that would be the best for all concerned.

Residents Notified of New Ordinances

A Fair Summary of the new Ordinance to Amend the Town of Glen Echo Article 17, Streets and Sidewalks, was distributed to residents and will be discussed at the May 12 Council meeting.

An Ordinance To Adopt a Budget was introduced at the April 7 meeting. This procedure differs from former years when the budget was adopted by Resolution of the Town Council. A copy of the proposed budget will be distributed to Town residents on or about May 16. Residents can contact Mayor Debbie Beers, any Councilmember, or the Clerk– Treasurer with questions or comments about the 2014–2015 budget. There will be a budget hearing on May 26 and then the budget will be adopted. Residents may send comments by email until May 26.



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Adventure Theatre MTC

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Apr. 4–May 25

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or call 301-634-2270

Episode of Madmen at County Council Meeting

By Phyllis Fordham

I was outraged! Montgomery County Council President Craig Rice introduced a banker and members of the small business community as he delivered a proclamation for Small Business Day. He then stated that there was a FEMALE representative in the audience who should join them.

Imagine that! The people involved at the front of the hearing room dais were all men, but he never mentioned that when introducing them. Only when it came to a woman was gender mentioned. Step right up, little lady!

It's fair to say that almost all women of our day have all experienced discrimination of some sort. It starts when we see women as being something other than the mainstream of any group. I know, I've lived through it and was hoping it was dead.

Here's a snapshot of what it was like in the olden days. I was elected and served on Rockville's City Council from 1976 to 1982. We had two-year terms so I ran in and won three elections. One year another woman joined the field of eight people running for four seats. The other woman and I were from opposing parties. Each of us often heard from voters, "I'm not sure which one of you to vote for; I like you both." The assumption was that one woman was enough to serve on this traditionally male body. There had been just one woman elected in Rockville's history since the city was incorporated in 1860.

That was in the 1970's when women wore buttons reading 67 Cents to denote pay discrimination between

men and women. The irony of this is that on April 8, 2014, the Montgomery County Council proclaimed pay equality day. We've come a short way, baby.

Here we are almost 40 years later. Women still earn less per hour than men do, and don't bother giving me the gobbledygook about dropping in and out of the workforce or professional choices or the like. We all know, in our hearts, that women in general are paid less than men and I have a sneaking suspicion that in a certain way we don't really mind that. If we did, it would change, right?

For starters, let's stop saying stupid things. It's patronizing to refer to one of five people by mentioning her gender. Really, what does being the only female in a group have to do with Small Business Day? We would be appalled if Council President Rice referred to any of the others standing with him as an African-American representative, Latino representative, Asian-American representative or one who is black or white. Until we stop thinking of people as different, we will never value each person as a person, regardless of any irrelevant physical characteristic. That will give us leave to act and think differently about them. And maybe to pay them less.

By the way, I was at that County Council meeting to witness two Glen Echo residents receive the Golden Shovel award. One of Glen Echo's recipients was a man, one a woman. The award was given by Councilmember Floreen, a FEMALE councilmember. Recipients were male and female, white and black, Asian and Latino. I am sure other races, ethnic backgrounds, and sexual preferences were among those honored. No one mentioned any of these characteristics. Perhaps they fade away when someone is volunteering to shovel a walk.