

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered 1904



September 2014

Town Council Meeting Fits Slow August News Cycle

By Phyllis Fordham

The Town Council met on August 11, 2014, with as light an agenda as possible, fitting the tradition of Washington's historically slow news cycle in August. As a matter of fact, it wasn't just a light agenda—there was no agenda at all. Still, Mayor Beers presided, and Councilmembers Long, Matney, and McCafrey entertained comments by citizens who showed up for the topic-less meeting. Entertainment may be an incorrect characterization of a session that dealt with several unpleasant topics and went on for more than an hour despite the lack of Council business.

Rats!

Raya Bodnarchuk announced the troubling appearance of at least one rat in her trash. Repeated at-

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tempts to trap the rat were foiled by the varmint who cleverly escaped capture. Desperate, Ms. Bodnarchuk contacted several pest control companies and put out a have-a-heart trap. As those who know her understand, she is likely to save animals in any con-

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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.

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Next Deadline: September 20, 2014

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 — Council Meeting
September 8, 2014, at 8 pm

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frontation, but the persistence of this large rat proved too much for her initial humane approach. Using more draconian measures, one rat was exterminated, but others persist. Ms. Bodnarchuk wanted the Town Council to know that a problem exists and asked that townspeople take preventive measures to deter rodents. She and other citizens at the meeting made a number of suggestions. For instance, residents should make sure that trash cans do not have holes in them and that lids are tightly secured. It is not a good idea to leave trash with food in plastic bags outside of a secure trash can. Birdfeeders may have to be eliminated and compost should be kept in containers. Pets should not be fed outside lest their food attract rats. If you observe rats, call a pest control company. While some local jurisdictions work with homeowners on pest control, Montgomery County does not. Swift and persistent action by residents is imperative.

Pet owners should also be cautious about what pets might eat when outside. If they chew on poisoned rodents, the pet may get sick or worse. Animals should always be under control of the owner, so if the usual leash laws are observed, the incidence of unintended poisoning will be mitigated. The Mayor asked Aaron LaRocca, a National Park Service (NPS) ranger, if Glen Echo Park has observed any rat problems. He responded by saying that they have a continuous pest control operation in place.

Trucks and Other Construction Related Impacts

Renny Springuel brought up numerous problems created by ongoing construction in Town, particularly that occurring at 37 Wellesley Circle. Huge trucks are wreaking havoc in the neighborhood by blocking the road, running over curbs, depressing the curbs with their weight, and barreling up and down University Avenue. The Mayor suggested that Mr. Springuel call the County Police if there are street blockages. She suggested calling 311, but at a previous meeting, Councilmember Stiglitz gave the non-emergency number for police as 240-777-0311.

Springuel went on to cite the appearance of the streets as unacceptable since the gas company has torn them up during its construction period. Mayor

Beers pointed out that Washington Gas has barely finished construction and they will begin repairing streets at Oxford Road and moving north through Town from there.

He also mentioned lack of sediment control on one construction site. And, he had a suggestion about correcting the ineffectiveness of the speed bump at Oxford Road. To the first issue, the Mayor referred him to the architect of the site, but she said his suggestion for the speed bump would not work.

Town-Wide Yard Sale

On a positive note, Ms. Bodnarchuk asked permission to hold the Town-Wide Yard Sale again this year on October 18, probably from 9 am to 2 pm. Volunteers will run the sale as they did last year, and will include Raya Bodnarchuk, Forrest Yang, and Diana Hudson-Taylor. Edie Springuel, present at the meeting, also volunteered to help. The Town will pay the cost of advertising, which is minimal.

Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron LaRocca, NPS representative, reported that the shared-use path construction has started after delays due to differences regarding tree mitigation issues. The County and NPS have finally agreed to reduce the number of trees to be cut down. The County will supply two-foot trees as described in the agreement and will plant and maintain the trees for one year.

Construction on the Hall of Mirrors recently
CONTINUED on Page 4

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CONTINUED from Page 3

began. The project will address ADA, life safety, and fire code issues.

Summer camp counselors and one resident artist were parking along Oberlin Avenue and Tulane Avenue during the summer. The issue is resolved since camp is no longer in session. The Mayor stated that the Town may consider a two-hour parking limit for those streets in the future to mitigate the problem.

The Clara Barton National Historic Site renovation is moving forward with the movement of supplies from the house to the Museum Resource Center in Landover. Actual construction will not begin until the environmental assessment is completed in the fall.

George Washington Memorial Parkway reorganization is underway and will result in a discipline-based division rather than the site-based model now being used. A management assistant will serve as liaison to the Town after that occurs, but as of now, there is not even a position description for that role. The management assistant will replace Mr. Lorca, who has been acting as liaison.

The Mayor mentioned that there have been car break-ins and incidents in the parking lot. She asked that weekend surveillance be increased.

Council Member Long asked that the superintendent come to a Town Council Meeting. Mr. LaRocca agreed to make her invitation known to the superintendent.

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

Ladies Night

on Wednesday,

September 17, at 8 pm

at the home of

Jane Stevenson

6106 Yale Avenue

RSVP: 301-229-3578

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THE ECHO—NEW EDITOR WANTED

As current editor of *The Echo*, I have enjoyed my tenure but I am ready to pass *The Echo* baton on. We are seeking a new editor in chief to lead the team and compose the editions beginning with the January 2015 edition. A number of wonderful volunteers work to make each issue available, including the art editor, copy editors, advertising representative, distribution and circulation staff, and reporters. It truly is a terrific group of people with whom to work, and a great way to become more enmeshed in the community. The work takes only a few hours a month and is intellectually and creatively rewarding for the right person. To give you an idea of the rewards of undertaking this task, I agreed to do it for eighteen months and I'm still here after 3 years. But now, it's time to move on and give another resident the opportunity. If interested, please call Phyllis Fordham at 301-263-0552.



 THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
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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.
Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Church School for All Ages	10:30 a.m.

■ UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Mondays, August 4 – September 1, 7:00 p.m.
Labyrinth Walk with Contemplative Music

Sunday, September 7, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Homecoming Sunday Worship (*Ice Cream Social at 12 noon*)

Monday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.
Contemplative Service in the Style of Taizé

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Town Major Expenditure Update

During the month of June, the Town paid \$15,041 to Knopf and Brown and \$25,837 to Peyton’s Tree Service. The latter payment was for 2013 and 2014 to date and was higher than usual because of winter road conditions. There was no Town report for July.

Police Report

Between July 14 and August 4, off-duty police issued 15 warnings and 4 citations for not stopping at the stop sign on Oxford Road. The Town paid \$280 for these services.

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GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

These events are free to Town residents.

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



Photo: Susan Grigsby

The Great Pumpkin: Georgia Prior, age 15, stoops beside the pumpkin Andy Malmgren grew in Susan Grigsby’s sunny yard. The pumpkin, shown here in early August, is now over 400 pounds!



Surprised to see a brown hawk on the grounds of the Baptist Church, Edie Springuel quickly snapped this photo and caught the hawk in flight.



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- Overnight housesitting

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Farewell to Nicole and Family

by Gloria Levin

Hours of torrential rain stopped just in time for a rousing warm send-off on August 12 to the Town’s much loved former Clerk–Treasurer, Nicole Fraser, and her family—Harley, Maddox, and Nora Feldbaum. They left the following day for Harley’s new position as Head of Strategy and Policy at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in Geneva, Switzerland. The party was announced via a flyer inserted in *The Echo* (depicting Heidi waving goodbye with the Alps in the background).

Over 70 adults and children came to bid adieu, consuming pizza and many pot luck dishes. The Town Hall was decorated in the colors of the Swiss flag, and centerpieces depicting the Alps and flowers from Dawn Tanner were on each table. Decorations were created by Raya Bodnarchuk, who also made two large banners. Brief speeches from Gloria Levin, Debbie Beers, and Carlotta Anderson were followed by appreciation from Nicole, who promised that the family would return to Glen Echo in 2–3 years.

The farewell was organized, staffed, and paid for by townspeople. Gloria Levin, the overall organizer, was assisted by Sally McGunnigle (decorations), Diana Hudson-Taylor (setup), Maire Hewitt (cleanup), Debbie Lange (flyer), Patty Sieber, and many volunteers.

After paying expenses, remaining funds will be deposited in Nicole’s Kindle account so the family can download English-language reading materials (which are costly in Switzerland). To contribute, contact Gloria at glorialevin@verizon.net or 301-320-5068.



Photo: Eleanor Balaban

Photo: Eleanor Balaban

Farewell party for Nicole Fraser and Harley, Nora, and Maddox Feldbaum

Residents turn out in droves for the farewell party.



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New Residents Attracted To Historic Home

by Carlotta Anderson

The historic character of their pre-Civil War house at 44 Wellesley was part of what lured Steve and Lisa Ryan to Glen Echo in April. Although they are long-time residents of Montgomery County, having lived in Gaithersburg for the past 25 years, they also sought a shorter commute for Steve, who works on Capitol Hill, as well as proximity to the river and the C&O towpath.

Also sharing the house is their eldest son John, currently an attorney with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and their one-year-old English Springer Spaniel Ned, who is enjoying exploring the Town, the park and the towpath.

Steve is a partner in the DC office of McDermott, Will and Emery, a US-based law firm with international offices. Lisa is a semi-retired attorney with a background in environmental and Native American issues. She is on the board of the privately-funded K-12 Red Cloud School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and has helped the school with various aspects in its development of a Lakota Language Curriculum/Program. Additionally, she works with the McKenna Center in Ward 6, near Capitol Hill, which helps homeless men and needy families.

In addition to John, the Ryans have two other adult sons. Matthew works in advertising in New York City; and William, a recent graduate of Cornell University, is currently working as a field organizer on a political campaign in the Midwest and is expected to join his family in Glen Echo in November.

Steve is a member of the Board of The Shakespeare Theatre in DC. He enjoys the beach, hockey (the Caps and Cornell), photography and collecting first edition and autographed books. Lisa likes cooking, gardening, reading, and physical activity.

Welcome to Glen Echo.



Two Toddlers Now Call Bryn Mawr House Home

by Carlotta Anderson

The recently constructed house at the bottom of Bryn Mawr Avenue now echoes with the sound of two toddlers of a family that moved to Glen Echo in July after long seeking a suitable locale not far from central DC. For several months, they kept their eyes on the progress of construction at 6001 Bryn Mawr Avenue, which was unduly long. After it finally came on the market, they purchased it.

When Thom Amdur and his wife, Emily Parsons, lived in the Dupont circle area, they used to swing dance at Glen Echo Park. After Rafe, now two-and-a-half, was born, they also began enjoying the carousel and puppet shows there. A second child, P.G., was born ten months ago. They have been joined in their new home by Emily's mother, Mary Parsons.

Thom, a graduate of Tufts University finds Glen Echo a reasonable commute to his job as director of the National Housing and Rehabilitation Association. Emily, a graduate of Vassar College, formerly managing editor of the American Prospect magazine is staying home to care for her young children. Her mother Mary continues as art director of that publication and does some book design.

Emily loves cooking and food writing; she has a blog called Supertastes.com. Thom brews beer at home and also bakes bread. Mary does oil painting, particularly portraiture, and enjoys gardening.

The family has found the Glen Echo community friendly and they have met many residents. Mary has attended a Town Council meeting and she and Emily have gone to a Ladies Night.

Welcome to Glen Echo. We hope you will be very happy here.

Trash Receptacles

Please remove trash receptacles from the sidewalks as soon as possible after trash is collected. If a neighbor is away, it would be a courtesy to move that neighbor's trash can back to their property.

Glen Echo Park Activities

The Puppet Co.

Rapunzel

September 19–October 26

Tiny Tots

Select Weds, Sats, and Suns at 10 am

See www.thepuppetco.org

or call 301-634-5380

Adventure Theatre MTC

Stuart Little

September 19–October 26

See www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org

or call 301-634-2270

GET THAT WONDERFUL STUFF READY NOW!

Town-Wide Yard Sale

Saturday, October 18

9 am to 2 pm

Each Resident Will Set Up In Individual Yard

Rain Place: Town Hall

For More Information, Call Raya Bodnarchuk at 301-922-5574

Other Volunteers include Maire Hewitt, Forest Yang, Diana Hudson-Taylor, Debbie Lange, Carol Barton, Edie Springuel

