

The Echo

The Town of
GREEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered 1904



October 2014

No Votes at September Council Meeting

By Phyllis Fordham

The absence of a quorum at the September 8 Town Council meeting meant there would be no official business carried out.

The Mayor votes only in case of a tied vote and it takes three members to constitute a majority. The light agenda, fortunately, lent itself to a motionless meeting. Instead, the Council discussed information items and listened to a few citizens with requests for action on other topics. No doubt it was a respite from the year's earlier contentious meetings regarding gas installation and potential development of Vassar Circle. For the moment, at least, gas lines are set in the streets and there is a development lag before the Montgomery County Planning Board schedules a hearing on the project in question.

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Citizens' Comments

Citizen Renny Springuel suggested that the Council consider weight limits for vehicles on town streets. He noted that heavy equipment is constantly traveling throughout the town due to the amount of ongo-

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THE ECHO

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Next Deadline: October 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 Town Council Meeting
October 13, 2014, at 8 pm

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CONTINUED from page 1

ing construction. Mayor Beers said she would have an engineer look at the streets but that “our streets can surely handle the same trucks as any street can.” Springuel suggested that we could limit the size of trucks coming into town, a limitation the Mayor said she would not consider. She pointed out that residents and builders are under pressure to complete projects efficiently and in a cost-effective manner and such a restriction would defeat both of those goals.

Aaron Hirsch suggested that the town could encourage a bike-share program by setting aside open space for a bike parking area. The Council discussed where there might be an appropriate space to do that, and Mr. Hirsch said the space would only have to be 15 to 20 yards long and wide enough to accommodate a bike. No position was taken by the Council.

Councilmember Matt Stiglitz provided information from a community police report from District 2, Montgomery County. He noted that there will be 12 new officers in the District and that most of the crimes are thefts from unlocked cars or residential burglaries in which perpetrators entered houses through garages. Glen Echo experiences about the same amount of crime as surrounding communities do.

Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron LaRocca of the National Park Service (NPS) provided the following report to the Council.

Shared Use Path

Construction continues on the shared use path. Peter McCallum, NPS Right of Ways Ranger will be the main point of contact. He will monitor the construction of the shared use path. Completion date was not available at the time of this meeting.

Hall of Mirrors

Construction on the Hall of Mirrors is continuing. The project will address the health and life safety issues with the building. The rehab includes making the building compliant with the Americans with

Disabilities Act, current fire codes, and installing an HVAC system. Construction started last month. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture will continue to use it for dance and movement classes. There will not be a sole co-operator as in the case of living classrooms or the Silver Working studio but there will be opportunities for people to teach classes. The space will also be available for groups to rent for rehearsals/practices.

Clara Barton NHS Rehabilitation Project

The National Capital Region has funded the move of the collections to the Museum Resource Center in Landover, Maryland. The curator has begun purchasing moving supplies and packing non exhibit items. The house will be closed the week of October 5, 2014 to allow contractors to pack and move the museum exhibit. The house will reopen, unfurnished, for house tours as soon as possible. The compliance process for the roof replacement and fire suppression is still ongoing. NPS is working with a contractor to finalize an environmental assessment. The compliance process is scheduled to be completed this fall after which construction can begin.

Then and Now

The park staff is preparing for the “Then and Now” festival on September 28, 2014. The maintenance staff will barricade the town to prevent overflow traffic from entering the town.

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Archeological Dig Opportunity

Happy Valley, at 6789 Goldsboro Road, was once the site of the Glen Echo town dump, and might contain jewelry, toys, and other artifacts dating back to the 1890s. The recent sale of this property provides an opportunity for anyone interested in searching for treasures. Below is a description that local historian Richard Cook sent to Mayor Debbie Beers:

Starting around 1897, the Glen Echo town reservoir and the town dump were located on and around the property mentioned above. The land was owned by the Baltzleys who built the reservoir. This is the same reservoir that there was so much ruckus about in 1911 during a drought when the town mayor (Witkowski) made the newspapers by getting into a battle with the amusement park owners and some of the town council members. After the Baltzleys lost their land holdings the location continued to be used, for water until at least 1911 and for a dump until around 1920.

A significant portion of the town dump is on undeveloped land on the Happy Valley property. A friend and I dug parts of the dump in the 1960's finding bottles, jewelry, toys, household items, coins, and some souvenirs from the amusement park. Much of the dump has not been dug.

Is the town interested in doing a bit of "archeology"? If so, I would be happy to show you where the dump is located. The things that can be found are not of great monetary value but they do shed light on the past of Glen Echo.

The new owners would have to be contacted for permission and I'm sure that anyone digging there would have to sign a waiver of responsibility.

Richard Cook
arcook@comcast.net
 240-855-2695



LADIES OF GLEN ECHO
Ladies Night
on Monday,
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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.



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Adult Forum and 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**

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

Sunday, October 19, at 5:00 p.m.
Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert

Sunday, November 2, at 5:00 p.m.
Choral Requiem Mass for the Feast of All Souls

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Town Major Expenditure Update

During the month of August, the town paid \$7,841 to Knopf & Brown and \$4,484 to Waste Management of Maryland.



Real Estate Report

3 Vassar Circle	\$775,000	For Sale
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GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

These events are free to town residents.

FSGW English Country Dance
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Police Report

Between August 5 and September 5, off-duty police issued 28 warnings and 6 citations for not stopping at the stop sign on Oxford Road. These numbers include enforcement on July 15, which was inadvertently omitted during the last reporting period. The town paid \$400 for these services.

Irene E. Cannon

June 16, 1915—April 11, 2014

By John Cannon

Irene E. Cannon, a long-time Glen Echo resident who moved to Sun City West, AZ, (near Phoenix) in 1979, passed away peacefully at age 98. She is survived by her sons Ray Cannon of Kirkland, WA, and Johnny and Laimon Cannon of Gaithersburg, MD. Ray currently owns property in Glen Echo and both sons still keep track of the goings-on in the town.

Irene was born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania by a stay-at-home mother and a coal miner father. At an early age her father became blind and unable to work, forcing Irene to become the primary support for her parents and younger brother while she was in high school during the Great Depression. Despite these family responsibilities, she managed to graduate from high school and to obtain a series of jobs ranging from used car saleswoman to state government school lunch program regional advisor to electronics production worker for General Electric during World War II (WWII).

At around the end of WWII, Irene met her husband-to-be, Edward, a Commander in the US Navy stationed in the Philadelphia area. After the war, Edward left the Navy and obtained a job in Washington, DC, with the National Bureau of Standards (now NIST, located in Gaithersburg). Irene and Edward moved to the District of Columbia (DC) for a short period, but found, in the tight real estate market of the time, a cottage-home painted battleship grey in the far-out Washington suburb of Glen Echo, MD, to which they moved in about 1947. They later moved to Sun City, AZ, in 1979 after both had retired, both for tax relief and better weather reasons. Edward passed away in 1999 after many years of travel and enjoyable retirement activities with Irene.

Irene was active in the Glen Echo community during the more than 32 years she lived in town. She was a member of the Town Council during the 1950s and early 1960s, and even ran for Mayor. A story at the time in one prominent Washington newspaper noted that she was the first local woman in the region to run for such an office and that she lost the election by only one vote. Irene noted later that, in the spirit of “sportsmanship” in which she was raised, she had cast her vote for her opponent in this election—she wondered at the time whether the election would have been a tie if she had voted for

herself. While serving on the Town Council, Irene was instrumental in the Council’s decision to build a Town Hall and to convince the U.S. Postal Service to relocate the post office into that building since the building in which the post office had been located for years was being closed down. She also influenced the Council to include the second floor ballroom as an integral part of the design.

After leaving the Town Council, Irene eventually became the Postmaster of the Glen Echo Post Office for about 10 years in the late 1960s through the late 1970s. With the help and hard work of a staff that Irene regularly praised in her later years, this post office went from nearly being shut down in a consolidation effort to being one of the most successful offices in the entire Washington, DC, area. This office provided a level of customer service and care that was uncommon in government offices of the time.

Irene was also active in many local and regional issues. She, along with others in the communities around Glen Echo, was instrumental in blocking what eventually became the Clara Barton Parkway from being constructed to federal interstate highway standards, the original plans for which would have obliterated stretches of the C&O Canal and would have also absorbed a number of houses along what is now the town border with that park. Irene was also active, along with others, in the effort to preserve the Clara Barton House and to have it absorbed into the National Parks system during a period when its future existence looked bleak.

In 1956, during the era of Cold War concerns about nuclear attacks, Irene was an instigator for and one of the organizers of the complete evacuation of Glen Echo as a civil defense practice drill. A free screening of the Washington, DC, premier of the movie “The Ten Commandments,” anticipated to be THE blockbuster movie of the year, was arranged for all evacuation participants as an incentive to cooperate with the drill. This drill, of course, made news in the region, but it was also noted in various other parts of the country.

Irene was an avid art student throughout her life and maintained this interest after retiring to Sun City West. Although she remained interested in politics, she generally limited her activities to travel, art, and assisting her less able neighbors. Until her health made airplane travel difficult, Irene would also return to the East Coast yearly to visit Maryland and friends in Glen Echo, and to spend time at a small house she inherited from her husband Edward’s family in central Delaware.

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Trusted Helper: Holly and Osamu Shimizu would like neighbors to know that a woman who has worked for them is available to take on additional work. She can provide house sitting, pet sitting, house cleaning, babysitting, French tutoring, and more. Her name is Denise and she can be reached at: 240-421-3997 or noah5dns@gmail.com. Holly and Osamu are at 301-229-3011

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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.

LOCAL EVENTS

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, October 5, 10 am to 3:30 pm
 Clara Barton Community Center
 See www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. You can make an appointment if you wish.

Ninth Annual Haunted House

Sunday, October 26, 4 pm to 6 pm
 Clara Barton Community Center
 Refreshments, small gifts, photos for costume wearers, fortune telling. Call 240-777-4910 for more information. Free entry; recommended for children under 12 and adults.

C&O Canal Activities

Abner Cloud House Open House
 Sundays: October 5, November 2, December 7, 12 pm to 5 pm
 This oldest existing structure along the canal is located at Fletcher's Cove. Open under the auspices of the Colonial Dames Chapter 111. Free admission.

Work Party Swain's Lock

Friday, October 10, 9 am
 Contact Pat White at hikemaster@candocanal or call 301-977-5628.

Nature Walk Carderock Recreation Area

Saturday, November 1, 10 am
 Contact Carol Ivory at Carolivory@verizon.net or 703-869-1538 (cell).

Church of the Redeemer

Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert: Symbol and Myth
 Sunday, October 19, 5 pm
 The program features Claude Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, Paul Hindemith's *Hérodias*, and works by Arthur Honegger and Lincoln DeCusatis. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.





Ghosts and Goblins
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Glen Echo Park Activities

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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

