

The Echo

The Town of
GLEEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered 1904



November 2014

Town Council Meeting In October

By Phyllis Fordham

The full Town Council met on October 13 and, with a light agenda, moseyed through the evening's business. The main topics were gas conversions by residents and repair of the town streets by the gas company.

Streets

Washington Gas Company representative Jack Higgins was in the audience and answered questions from Mayor Beers about the completion of the repairs to town streets. Higgins reported that the Washington gas paving subcontractor would be back in town on October 22 and would work for approximately two weeks to complete the work. The already filled-in trenches will be milled and refilled. Then a

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light layer of paving will be laid down on top, from curb to curb to complete the repair. Residents will be notified when they have to remove cars from the streets. The Mayor said she did not think we needed A. Morton Thomas to conduct an engineering inspection of the work, but will do it herself. Resident

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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: November 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
November 10, 2014, at 8 pm

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Renny Springuel who was in the audience offered to walk the town streets with the mayor once the work is completed to offer a measure of quality control. When asked, Mr. Higgins of Washington Gas said they guarantee the quality of the streets until the next repaving occurs, which would be a town project.

Mayor Concerned About Conversion Timeliness

While 76 households have requested gas service through permits, only 28 have had meters set and systems connected. Residents must call the gas company to set a meter before systems can be converted or appliances installed. Those with propane appliances must have the propane disconnected first, and then a separate trip will be made for meter installation. Once a meter is set, a monthly service fee begins and it was suggested that residents may be reluctant to take on the fee. The Mayor said that was "ridiculous" since the fee is only about \$10 a month. She has concerns that those who do not move quickly will not be able to convert until the heating season is over. She also noted that there is some confusion about the responsibilities that fall on the contractor versus those that are in the Washington Gas purview. She asked that *The Echo* provide guidance. *The Echo* editor asked Jack Higgins of Washington Gas for guidance. The information, he stated, is on the website and interested parties can get it from that site. The Mayor, herself, said she was just lucky that both Griffith Energy Services, Inc. and Washington Gas were on her street at the same time, so she was able to straighten out any issues that might have instigated finger pointing. Mr. Higgins also mentioned that only the homeowner can order a meter installation and one can expect to be asked for a social security number when ordering the service.

Glen Echo Park

Aaron LaRocca, representing the National Park Service (NPS) reported that construction on the Hall of Mirrors is nearly complete and movement classes have begun there. A program partner is being sought to utilize the indoor and outdoor space of the former

stables facility. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) is accepting letters of interest from appropriate organizations to conduct an environmental program on the site.

Clara Barton National Historic Site

The house will be closed for up to seven days beginning on October 27 to allow contractors to pack and move larger items that will be sent to the Museum Resource Center during the time of construction. The roof will be replaced and fire suppression will be installed. First, however, the NPS will work with a contractor to develop an Environmental Assessment after which construction will begin. Tours will resume after the seven day closure in October.

Signs

Mayor Beers suggested that new no-parking signs would be needed to cover certain spots in town. On Cornell Avenue, she said, visitors often park since the signs are so far apart they are not noticed. She also noted that one of the existing signs is covered up by a hedge and that problem needs to be rectified. She mentioned a need for 8 or 9 signs, but not more. Matt Stiglitz, who is the liaison with the Montgomery County Police Department said that if we used Montgomery County signs, perhaps the County police would issue parking tickets. Council Members had a number of questions and comments about this possibility. Nancy Long wondered if County signs

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CONTINUED from page 3

could go on the same standard that Glen Echo signs occupy. Matt said he will investigate the possibility of County enforcement and if the County would pay for its own signs. The Council also brought up the question of repainting yellow curb markings that also direct visitors not to park in certain areas.

Door to Door Solicitations

The Mayor and Council also discussed the need for door to door solicitors to get a permit and if the ordinance now on the books needs to be changed. After looking at the Section 11.6 of the current ordinance, Steve Matney read pertinent parts to the Council and observed that ordinance changes are cumbersome and time consuming processes. The Council decided to keep the ordinance as is, and to remind residents that if they are disturbed by solicitors they can ask the parties to provide their town generated permit. The town Clerk-Treasurer can handle this as an administrative matter.

Planned Townhouse Development

There have been two public meetings regarding a planned development at 6789 Goldsboro Road. While 26 townhouses would be allowed, the owner of the property expects to build 19 or fewer. Nancy Long and resident Raya Bodnarchuck expressed concern about the storm water management plan for the site. Ms. Long mentioned the undermining of the parking lot in Glen Echo Park that was created by past storm water management issues and in particular, the cave-in of the parking lot that occurred in 1989.



LADIES OF GLEN ECHO
Ladies Night
on Tuesday,
November 18, at 8 pm
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The Echo Welcomes New Editor

By Phyllis Fordham

After a short search for an *Echo* editor to get the paper to the townspeople's doors each month, we were lucky enough to discover Emily Parsons who volunteered for the job. It was just a few months ago that Carlotta Anderson interviewed Emily and her family as newcomers to Glen Echo. Emily will begin her work in January, so the first issue of the new editor will reach us in February. Emily's mother Mary, who also has publishing experience, will take on the layout and design for the newspaper. We interviewed Emily to ask pertinent questions, such as why she was interested in this volunteer work and what she has planned for *The Echo*. Between tending a toddler and a baby she sent us the following information. We look forward to her rendition of *The Echo* and hope there will be a good combination of existing and new volunteers to help out. In the tradition of past editors,

we will continue to act as an occasional reporter or fill in as is needed with other duties.

Notes From Emily Parsons

When we were looking at the house on Bryn Mawr, we read some back issues of *The Echo* to get a feel for the town. I was struck by how informative it was—I learned all about gas coming to the neighborhood and the Vassar Circle debates—but the quirky nature of the town also came through clearly. The publication has a lot of personality. I was content to be a consumer of *The Echo*, but when I was asked to volunteer, I simply thought I'd be happy to help out. My background is in publishing, so the job seems like a logical fit with the added benefits of introducing me to more of our neighbors and keeping me abreast of the goings on in our new town, a town that I'm completely charmed by.

I was an editor at *Zagat* in New York for the first part of my career, reviewing restaurants, night-life, theater, shopping, etc. Most recently I was the managing editor of *The American Prospect* where I worked with my mother, Mary Parsons, who is still the art director of that publication. She will be handling the design of *The Echo* starting with the February 2015 issue. The look of the newsletter will change a bit, but we will largely maintain the content and certainly the spirit of the publication. I look forward to meeting with the current volunteers—I will need all of their knowledge and experience as a newcomer to Glen Echo—and I welcome the input of any potential volunteers in our community.



■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
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

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

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

Sunday, December 7, at 5:00 p.m.
A Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent

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Town Major Expenditure Update

During August, the town paid \$4478.23 to Waste Management of Maryland and \$2130 to Dennis Alexander for accounting services.



Real Estate Report

3 Vassar Circle	\$775,000	For Sale
6107 Princeton Ave	900,000	For Sale

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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

Eistophos Science Club
Friday, November 14, 1 pm

C&O Canal Board Meeting
Sunday, December 7, 1 pm

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Police Report

Between September 6 and October 8, Montgomery County off duty police officers issued 38 warnings and 17 citations to those drivers on Oxford Road who violated the stop sign directive. Two people were repeat offenders. The officers worked a total of 13 hours for the period. The town paid them \$400.

Family of Four Arrives from Cabin John

By Carlotta Anderson

Dave and Mickie Simpson "jumped at the chance" to move to Glen Echo several months ago. They were living at the time in Cabin John and had been happy there for 5 years, but when a house in Glen Echo became available they were eager to continue enjoying "the special vibe along the river", being able to remain in the Whitman school district and continuing to make friends in a small community

With them came Ola, 17, a senior at Whitman and Arek, 14, a freshman at Whitman, and also three lovable and entertaining cats.

Dave, who is from the Philadelphia area, graduated from Kutztown University and went on to get a MA and a PhD in Public Administration from Virginia Tech. He works as a Program Manager on defense contracts for Raytheon, and has been doing a lot of international travel recently.

Mickie has a BA from Colby College and a Masters in Real Estate from Johns Hopkins. After spending some 20 years in commercial real estate mainly as a Project Manager, she switched a few years ago to residential real estate and is currently an Associate Broker at TTR Sotheby's International Realty. As a "green" realtor, she is especially interested in anything having to do with healthy and efficient homes

Dave's favorite hobbies are golf and reading, and he also enjoys watching Arek's sports events. As a busy realtor and mother, Mickie understandably has to squeeze in leisure activities. Among them are hiking and jogging in the C&O Canal Park, participating in a summer golf league, visiting Level Fitness, and going with Dave to see live music when they can fit it in!

Dave and Mickie both arrived independently in the DC area in 1992, met when both were working in Crystal City, and were married in 1997. They then lived in New England for a while beginning in 2002 (which is where Mickie spent many of her early years), and eventually returned to the DC area in 2009, with no plans to leave the vicinity again.

As a senior in high school, Ola is currently looking at prospective colleges for next year. She is particularly interested in criminal justice and also wants to continue studying Russian, which she has been doing for the past four years at Whitman. She currently has an internship three afternoons a week at the Montgomery County Police Headquarters in Gaithersburg, and also works at the All Fired Up pottery place in Bethesda.

Arek loves baseball and hopes to make the JV team as a freshman at Whitman. He also plays squash and likes to skateboard as well as "hang out" with his friends in Bethesda

A hearty welcome to this new family in Glen Echo. We hope you will be very happy here.



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CLASSIFIED ADS

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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

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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LOCAL EVENTS

Clara Barton Center

Annual Holiday Craft Show

Sunday, December 7, 1 pm to 5 pm
Clara Barton Community Center
Features 50 local artists, crafters, and authors
Free admission and parking
For more information, see www.FriendsCBCC.org.

C&O Canal Activities

Work Party Swain’s Lock

Friday November 14, 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.

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Towpath repairs

The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park has announced that it will be making towpath repairs from mile 5 (Lock 5) to mile 7 (Lock 7). Repairs include fixing eroded areas, as well as resurfacing of the towpath.

Work will take place from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday. Visitors can expect delays of up to 15 minutes and are urged to use caution while visiting this area of the park. Repairs were scheduled to begin October 14 and continue for approximately six weeks.



Photo: National Park Service

Lockhouse # 6 on the canal towpath



Got Gas?

The Mayor was concerned. At October's meeting, the Council was told that only 28 of about 78 residents who got gas permits from the town have completed their conversions. Weeks after that meeting, the Glen Echo list-serve was buzzing with questions and complaints from residents trying to navigate the process. Informed advice is scarce about who to call, when to call and how to get contractors and Washington Gas to work together. At that earlier Town Council meeting, Jack Higgins of Washington Gas referred us to the company's website to get more information. We looked. Our advice about the instructions there: forget about it! It won't be much help. Do keep the phone numbers from the site, though.

There was one long time town resident at last month's Council meeting who leaned in and got her project going early. Her verdict: It worked like a charm. Then again, there were those who had horror stories. So in the absence of solid information and the evidence of many complaints, we can only suggest you take the following steps knowing that some will have alternate experiences.

1. Jump on this and get started. Even with attention to detail you could end up in January with no heat for a few days if you delay. As a benefit of your action, we expect there will be savings realized by using gas as an energy source once your conversion is complete.

2. If you decide not to follow step one, then relax until spring. Then, go back to step one. If you delay then, you may be in the same fix this time next year. By the way, you have just one year from the time the gas line was extended to your house to take advantage of this hook up at no cost. So if you are not hooked up in a year, prepare to pay. We have no idea how much that charge will be.

3. There are certain steps that must be taken if you want your gas furnaces or appliances hooked up. First, Washington Gas has to set pipes at a place external to the house that will house your meter. If this has not yet been done, jump on it twice. We assume every interested party has gotten their \$300 permit from Town Hall. If not, call Stacey Malmgren, now! It may be too late, now that the street is being

repaved, but you could try, anyway.

4. Once pipes are installed and brought up to your house by the gas company, call your contractor. Arrange for a furnace conversion; get pipes changed if you have propane.

5. There are several steps involved in bringing the gas line to your furnace or hot water heater or appliance. Once Washington Gas runs a pipe to your house, your contractor can extend the interior piping to your systems or appliances. Mine involved three visits. First, the contractor hooked up the pipes, then WSSC performed an inspection and tagged the pipes and finally, the contractor returned to perform a rite called close-in. Once close-in is finished, you can call the gas company to set the meter.

6. Once the gas company sets the meter, they will charge a fee for service, but we are told it is about \$10 a month. The gas company will come out to do this as soon as they can but there could be slight delay. When you call, the representative will ask for your social security number. Yeah, you got that right. They don't want you skipping out on the bill. You can refuse to give them that number and then be told about the many documents you need to fax to them. We just went for the easy way and hope hackers don't steal our information from the gas company.

7. After the meter is set, call your contractor again and get a date for installation of your furnace or hot water heater. If you are converting from propane, you will no doubt have a plumber do that. I understand they are pretty busy people too, so be sure to get your calls in as soon as possible.

8. We are told that once appliances are in place the gas just starts flowing. We assume the contractor is in touch with Washington Gas regarding this completion. Don't take a chance! Call Washington Gas directly to make sure they know the date the systems will be connected and then follow up once that is done. There are those who told us they call Washington Gas before the contractor installs so there is no delay. Renny Springuel was nice enough to put his experience on the list-serve so you may use that as a guide.

One final word; this is not an Ebola outbreak. Still, it is wise to be vigilant, take nothing for granted, and take action on your own behalf.

In Memoriam Harry Odell 1921-2014

Harry Odell, who lived at 7317 Columbia Avenue died on September 28 at a hospital in Margaretville, New York. He was 93 years old. Mr. Odell purchased the Columbia Avenue home in the early 1970's and lived there periodically during his long Foreign Service career. When he retired he moved back to Glen Echo in 1983 and served for several years on the Town Council.

Harry Odell was a B-17 navigator in World War II. His plane was shot down and he spent almost two years in a German prisoner-of-war camp during that time. He joined the United States Foreign Service in 1949 after graduating from Brown University and earning master's degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Harvard University. His Foreign Service included posts in

Germany, Switzerland, Sri-Lanka, Greece, Jordan and Israel. He wound up his Foreign Service career as Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy in Bern, Switzerland. Following his retirement, he became Executive Director of the American Swiss Association, based in New York City.

Mr. Odell married Barbara Lohmann of Brooklyn, New York, in 1946. Barbara Odell predeceased her husband in 1997 after 51 years of marriage. They were both active and well known residents in Glen Echo. Barbara Odell distributed *The Echo* for several years and also worked at the Glen Echo Post office. Mr. Odell sold the house in Glen Echo several years after her death.

He is survived by his daughter, Deborah Odell, of Alexandria, Virginia, and Margaretville, New York, and his son, David Odell, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, as well as nephews, nieces and friends.



Photo: Jane Stevenson

The great pumpkin, estimated at 650 pounds, returns home. Shown with Jim Ford and Rob Prescott, seated, and Susan Grigsby, Andy Malmgren, and Haynes Davis, standing.

Glen Echo Park Activities

The Puppet Co.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

October 16-November 21

The Nutcracker

November 28-December 30

Tiny Tots

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Adventure Theatre MTC

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December 30, 2014

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Eistophos Science Club Comes to Glen Echo

The Eistophos Science Club had its roots in the National Science Club where it was an auxiliary group made up of women with knowledge of and interest in multiple scientific disciplines. In 1893 the group shed its auxiliary status to function under its own name, Eistophos which derives from the Greek, meaning "toward the light."

The approximately 20 members of the club and interested parties are invited to listen to papers presented by other members. On November 14, 2014 the group will meet at the Glen Echo Town Hall at 1pm. Pam Mason will present "Meth Labs and Dangers to Children" and Karen Wolcott will speak on "Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia." A formal tea will be provided after the lectures.

Townpeople are invited to this free event. The organization is actively seeking new members. Members do not have to be professional scientists, but should have an interest in exploring science. Diana Hudson-Taylor of Glen Echo has additional information about membership if you are interested.



Lock Your Cars!

There were at least four break-ins of resident's cars on one night in early October. Most or all of the cars were left unlocked. Please be sure to lock car doors and do not leave valuables in your car where they can be seen. Matt Stiglitz, who is the town liaison with the Montgomery County Police Department suggests that any break in or other incident be reported online at www.mymcpnews.com/resource. If you do not have access to a computer call 311 and ask to be connected to the County Police non-emergency number. It is important that these minor incidents are reported. It is also useful to let the Mayor and Council know of these happenings.

