

The Echo

The Town of
GREEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered 1904



January 2015

Quiet Meeting with Blizzard Sized Snow Plow Discussion

By Bill Vincent

All four Council Members and the Town Clerk-Treasurer attended the December 8th Town Council Meeting. The Mayor was out of town.

Recently, Mayor Beers sent an email to the town listserv announcing that, due to health issues, Mark Peyton would be unable perform snow removal as he has done for the last 30 years. In addition to their expression of concern for Mr. Peyton, the Council agreed that finding someone to plow the Town streets this winter was the main topic of business this month. Gloria Levin, working with Mayor Beers, had taken the bull by the horns and spearheaded the effort to find a new plowing service for the Town. The Council started the meeting by thanking her for

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her efforts.

Three companies, Hughes Landscaping, Rolling Acres Landscape/Nursery, and Rasevic Snow Services had been identified and each submitted proposals to provide plowing services this year. Gloria also solicited and received input from other local mu-

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THE ECHO

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Next Deadline: January 20, 2015

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
January 12, 2015, at 8 pm

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nicipalities about their snow removal services. She provided this useful feedback during the meeting but it didn't particularly sway any decisions one way or the other, since the Council concentrated on the three bids they had received. Overall, the three companies' services and associated costs were roughly similar to each other and to what the town had been paying in the past. After much discussion on the merits of each bid, the future potential to provide landscaping services during the warmer months, and the size of each bidder, the Council, subject to the Town lawyer's review and confirmation of insurance, unanimously approved Rasevic for this winter's plowing contract.

Other Business

Jeff Broadhurst of Broadhurst Architects presented some details on an addition and remodeling taking place at Jordon Lieberman's home on Princeton Avenue. The addition consists of some minor changes to the back of the house including a porch that doesn't encroach setbacks any more than the current structure. No variance was required and a permit from Montgomery County has been issued. McFarland Woods will be the builder.

Council Member Stiglitz raised the topic of the stop sign on Oxford Road and parking signage around town. He put forth the idea of deploying a stop sign with flashing LED lights on Oxford Road at the intersection of University Avenue. An example of this product can be found at www.xwalk.com/pages/TS40-R1-1-Stop.htm. Council Member Sti-

glitz also indicated that standard No Parking signs could be procured and deployed around town to help control parking issues. Based on an informal survey, he believes about 11 signs would be needed around Wellesley Circle and 7 around Vassar Circle

Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron LaRocca, representing Glen Echo Park and the Clara Barton House, reported on recent developments at the Park and the site.

A walkthrough of the new, shared-use path that crosses Minnehaha Creek on the refurbished trolley bridge was planned for Friday, December 12.

The park has started initial planning for participating and celebrating in the National Park Service's 2016 Centennial.

Rehabilitation of the Clara Barton House is underway. The house collection has been moved to a storage facility in Landover, Maryland. The house will be open for hourly tours between 10 am and 4 pm, until early January, when it will be closed for the replacement and rehabilitation of the existing roof and installation of the a fire suppression system. An environmental assessment of the project is in the works and will be released to the public for comment shortly. The closure is planned to take one to two years so squeeze a last visit into your schedule soon!

There were no other topics discussed at the meeting.

the irish inn
live music
at glen echo

live music
 mondays - traditional irish
 7 pm - 10 pm

every other wednesday
 19th street band
 8 pm - 11 pm

sundays - jazz
 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

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Peter Somerville, 1941–2014

By Deborah Lange

A year ago on January 19 the town lost Peter Somerville, who had made many contributions to town and park activities. We are commemorating the anniversary of his passing with the following bio:

Peter Somerville grew up in London, England. As a child he enjoyed taking on technical challenges and built himself a ham radio when he was in high school. He liked to help his younger sister Jan solve problems too. When he saw her polishing the chrome on her bicycle, he advised her to apply elbow grease and then, ever helpful, dispatched her to the hardware store to buy a jar of elbow grease.

Peter enjoyed studying and eventually earned a scholarship to Cambridge University. He spent his summer before university as a camp counselor in Canada and then traveled across the US by Greyhound bus, traveling (and sleeping) by night and exploring cities, towns, and parks by day. For him the highlight of the trip was walking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back up in a single day.

At Cambridge his achievements were many. He broke the university record for glugging down the quickest Yard of Ale. He also achieved his degree in engineering in two years, giving him time to prepare for the Cambridge Expedition to the Karakoram Mountains in Pakistan to measure the change in glacier activity. Peter was the expedition's photographer, sound recorder, and truck mechanic. His challenges included pulling the truck in front of him back onto the mountain road after its rear wheel crushed the road edge. He also figured out how rebuild the road so that their caravan could proceed. After the expedition, he returned to Cambridge for his third year and earned a another degree in economics.

After university Peter hopped aboard his motorcycle and traveled across Europe, down through Spain, and across to Gibraltar. He returned to start work at a telephone manufacturing company, but eventually found his home at IBM, where he worked for 26 years. While there he was granted many patents, including one for creating IBM's fax software and

another for designing their bar code scanner. In 1988, IBM sent Peter to the US to help the image lab, and while there he met Debbie Lange, who was documenting IBM software. When Peter returned to England in 1990, he asked Debbie to join him. They wed on May 6, 1992, uniting two families that included Peter's daughter Annabel and Debbie's children Robert and Michelle.

They lived in England near Stratford-Upon-Avon until July 1996, when they returned to America, settling in Glen Echo. Debbie wanted to be as close to the park as possible, and might have considered a yurt were they being offered for residential housing.

Peter found work as a contractor to GEICO, where he helped design a system that sent images of injured cars to multiple computers and generally streamlined claims processing.

He also became active in the Town of Glen Echo, building the town's website and digitizing *The Echo* newsletter so that it could be read online.

He began volunteering at Glen Echo Park and created a website for the park. In addition, he joined the crew that was working on park construction projects. He helped repair the Spanish Ballroom floor, restore the Bumper Car Pavilion, and rearrange the rocks in the Minnehaha Creek to keep the water from eroding the bridge supports. He built the ticket booth that stands next to the Bumper Car Pavilion. He became chair of the Glen Echo Park Foundation and wrote the proposal that secured the grant to complete the carousel restoration. He filmed National Park Service events, the carousel restoration, and Adventure Theatre productions and eventually joined the board of the theater. He spent so much time helping at the park that people were often surprised to discover he also had a full-time day job.

Peter first showed symptoms of Multiple Systems Atrophy in 2007. His illness was initially thought to be Parkinson's Disease, but his diagnosis was corrected in January of 2014. In-home hospice service made it possible for Peter to stay at home and be cared for by his family.

GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

These events are free to town residents.

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

Town Major Expenditure Update

During the month of November, the Town's largest expenditures were \$8,891 to Waste Management of Maryland, \$4,712 to Knopf and Brown for legal services and \$3,015 to Dennis Alexander for accounting services.

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

Ladies Night

on Sunday,

January 25, at 6 pm

at the home of

Mickie Simpson

22 Wellesley Circle

RSVP: 301-229-4070

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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 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, January 5, at 7:30 p.m.
Contemplative Service in the Style of Taizé

Sunday, January 11, at 5:00 p.m.
The District Eight in Concert

Sunday, February 8, at 5:00 p.m.
A Night at the Movies: Silent Films with Jonathan Ortloff, organ

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

Carlotta Anderson

There will be a celebration of life for Carlotta Anderson, hosted by Julia Wilson and her brothers, held at the Town Hall on January 18 at 2 pm. Neighbors and friends are invited to attend.



Photo: Patty Siebert



Real Estate Report

6107 Princeton Ave	850,000	For Sale
7315 University Ave	975,000	Sold

Police Report

Between November 6 and December 7, Montgomery County off-duty police officers issued 26 warnings and 7 citations to those drivers on Oxford Road who violated the stop sign directive. The officers worked a total of 7 hours for the period. The Town paid them \$280 for these services.



Photo: Eleanor Balaban



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Photo: Eleanor Balaban

Thanks to Holiday Party Volunteers

Holiday party volunteers for setup were Julia Wilson and Ben and Hank Malmgren. For cleanup, there were too many helping hands to count. Special thanks to Steve Matney who quieted the smoke detector after a batch of extra crispy Belgian waffles were made and to Diana Hudson-Taylor who handled sweeping the floor after gingerbread house construction.



Photo: Eleanor Balaban



Photo: Eleanor Balaban



Photo: Patty Siebert



Photo: Eleanor Balaban



Photo: Eleanor Balaban

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References from your Neighbors

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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

C&O Canal Activities
Continuing Hike Series

Saturday, January 24, 10:30 am
 Mile 22.8. Visit Seneca quarry and stone mill.
 Email Pat White at hikemaster@candocanal.org or
 call 301-977-5628.

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**Sing with Encore Chorale this
 Winter/Spring**

WHAT: Encore Chorale for singers 55+
 WHEN: Starting January 15 for 15 weeks
 WHERE: Glen Echo Park

Encore invites novice and experienced singers to join the Winter/Spring season of singing. Encore singers improve their voices, improve their health, meet new friends and enjoy a great new adventure singing challenging music in four parts in preparation to join other Encore Chorales for exciting community concerts. There are no auditions, new singers are welcome at all locations, and singers may be seated for rehearsals and performances.

One location is the Washington Conservatory of Music at Glen Echo Park, rehearsing on Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 pm starting January 15.

Encore has 14 chorales in the Washington DC/ Baltimore area serving over 700 older adult singers. This spring, Encore singers will rehearse and perform, among other selections, the beautiful music of *Les Miserables*, *Showboat*, and Cole Porter. Concerts are given at high profile venues in May.

Encore offers the opportunity to explore a new artistic venture for those who have not sung in years, or to continue a life-long passion for others. Singers learn vocal technique, proper breathing and posture, and come away delighted by the weekly rehearsals.

Program registration information and fees, video of past concerts, and news about Encore can be found at www.encorecreativity.org.

Encore's Executive Director is Jeanne Kelly. While Director of the Levine School of Music-Northern Virginia, she formed three chorales to participate in the study on the impact of participation in professionally conducted cultural programs on older adults, led by internationally known gerontologist Dr. Gene Cohen. The lead sponsor of this study was the National Endowment of the Arts in Washington, D.C.



Glen Echo Park Activities

The Puppet Co.

Circus

January 16–February 15

Tiny Tots

Select Weds, Sats, and Suns at 10 am

See www.thepuppetco.org

or call 301-634-5380

Adventure Theatre MTC

Petite Rouge

A Cajun Red Riding Hood

January 30–March 8

See www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org

or call 301-634-2270

EPA Environmental News

For Old Electronics: Don't Think Trash. Think e-Cycling

In 2013 each American household owned on average of 28 electronic devices, according to the Consumer Electronics Association. But with advancing technology, sleeker, shinier, and faster cell phones, computers, tablets, mp3 players, and televisions are finding their way onto many holiday gift lists. And into the hands of American consumers.

But what about the old ones that are still perfectly functional? Think e-Cycle.

Rather than making products from scratch, recycling electronics keeps harmful toxins out of landfills, recovers valuable materials that can be reused, conserves virgin resources, and results in lower emissions, including greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change.

Many people actively look for new ways to protect the environment and recycling electronics can make a significant impact. For example, smart phones make up a large portion of the waste stream. For every one million smart phones recycled, 35,274 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered and reused.

The good news for consumers is that electronics recycling is growing in popularity and ease. Through the Environmental Protection Agency's National Electronics Challenge, many retailers and manufac-

turers now take back old electronics for recycling by certified electronics recyclers. By using certified recyclers, you can rest assured that your old electronics will be recycled responsibly. To find such locations near you, go to search.earth911.com and enter your zip code. In addition, many major retailers will recycle your electronics for little or no cost. Ask where you shop.

In addition, many states, cities and counties sponsor collection events for electronics during the year, or they may offer a permanent drop-off location with certain hours of operation.

For events and locations in your area go to www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/eCycling/index.htm, look under eCycling Programs in Region 3, and click on your state for local electronics recycling information.

For more information on eCycling, go to: www.epa.gov/ecycling

Echo Editorial Staff

The Echo seeks meticulous, responsible high school student for an editorial internship. The main job will be to fact check the issue each month, but there will be writing and photography opportunities as well. If interested, please email theechoeditor@gmail.com. This position will be an addition to the current editorial staff. We will work with school accreditation if it is offered.