



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ APRIL 2015

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The full Council and Mayor Beers were in attendance at the March 9 Town Council meeting. In addition, ten other residents were at the meeting.

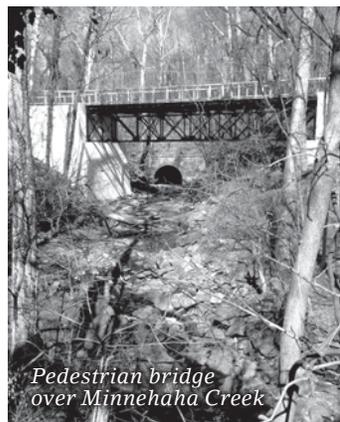
Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron La Rocca, representative of the National Park Service, gave a customary and complete briefing of park activities. The George Washington Parkway/Glen Echo Park has undergone reorganization. Mr. La Rocca is now the Chief of Staff to the superintendent, responsible for external communications, public affairs, and partnerships. Others with new responsibilities are Blanca Alvarez Stransky as the Deputy Superintendent, Simone Monteleone as Chief of Resource Management, and Jason Newman as Chief of Lands, Planning and Design.

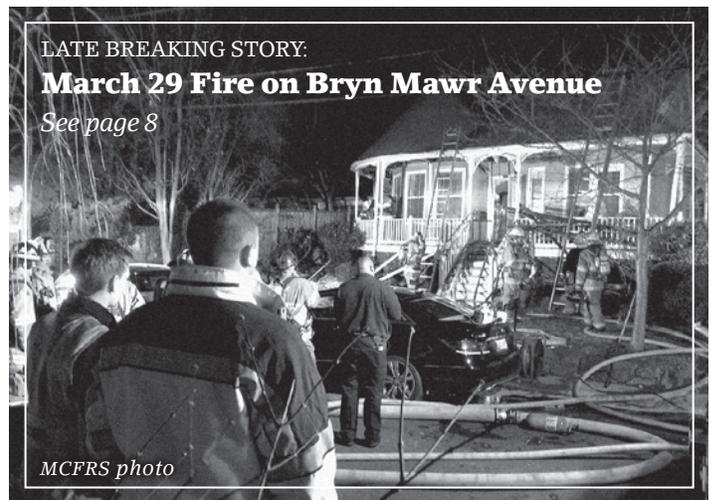
In response to a resident query, Mr. La Rocca report-

ed that a date has not been set for the opening of the new pedestrian bridge over Minnehaha Creek. Council Member Long remarked that the white paint on the bridge was out of keeping with the surroundings.

Council Member Stiglitz pointed out that the severe winter has caused potholes on the Clara Barton Parkway which are dangerous



Pedestrian bridge over Minnehaha Creek



LATE BREAKING STORY:

March 29 Fire on Bryn Mawr Avenue

See page 8

MCFRS photo

and causing damage to vehicles. Mr. La Rocca said that he would be sure those responsible for the roadway knew of the problem.

Snow Removal

Mayor Beers and Council Members (as well as residents present) indicated that there were some problems with the Town's present contractor for snow removal, Rasevic, and that the contract would not be renewed at the end of its term. Charges are made for each plowing swing through the

Town, which were judged to be overly frequent. Many present felt that way too much sand has been used on our roadways, which is still with us, but resident Tisha Anderson argued that for her and others who must get out for work early in the morning regardless of the weather, sand was preferable to salt, in part because it hangs around so long, continuing to be effective.

Other Town Business

The Town Hall has a new hot water heater. Bids have

THE ECHO

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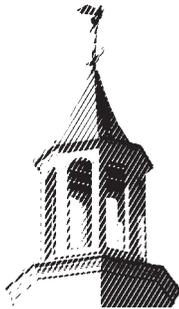
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Next Deadline: April 20, 2015

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.



TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

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Next Town Council Meeting: April 13, 2015, 8 PM

been received for a new gas furnace, and, based on price and reliability, the Council voted to award the contract to Uneeda Heating and Cooling. Two Council seats will be up for election in May. See Election Notice below for details.

The Council voted to renew the Town's contract with Chapel Hill Landscaping.

Town Expenses

In February, the Town paid \$15,031 to Rasevic Snow Services, \$4,264 to Waste Management of Maryland, and \$2,287 to Knopf & Brown. —JIM MCGUNNIGLE

For Your Safety

The Montgomery County Police arrested someone in

connection with the recent spate of car break-ins at Glen Echo Park, and the National Park Service is hopeful that there will be a corresponding decrease in crime. That said, in mid-March, a park policeman was seen putting the pictured notice on cars where he saw something left out that might entice a burglar.



ELECTION NOTICE

An election for the seats of two Town Council Members, currently held by Nancy Long and Mark McCaffrey, will be on Monday, May 4, 2015, from 5 PM to 9 PM at the Town Hall. All seats will be for a four-year term.

Candidates must be registered Glen Echo voters who have resided in the Town at least one year prior to the election and be at least 25 years of age. They are not required to be U.S. citizens. (To register to vote for Town elections, contact the Clerk-Treasurer, or simply register on election day as you enter

the polls. Proof of residency may be requested.) Anyone who would like to run for these offices must file a written declaration of candidacy no later than April 14, 2015, which is 20 days prior to the election.

Candidacy letters should be delivered to Susan Grigsby, Supervisor, Board of Elections, 7325 University Avenue, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812. Absentee ballots will be provided to those requesting them, in writing, prior to 5 PM on May 2, 2015, through the Supervisor of the Board of Elections.

HOLLY IN THE IVY

This month, I am highlighting some of my favorite, must-have plants for the year. I selected one from each of several categories including a tree, an upright conifer, an arching shrub, a fragrant vine, a native grass, and a beautiful annual. Each of them is well suited for Glen Echo gardens.

One of our native small trees that would be great by a patio or as a single specimen plant is the **Carolina Silverbell** (*Halesia carolina*). Ultimately, it can grow 30 to 40 feet tall and grows easily

Carolina Silverbell

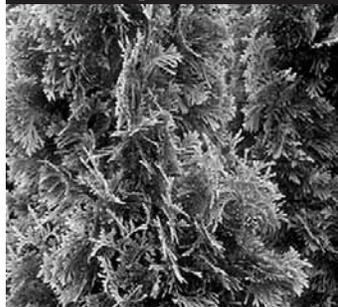


in sun or part shade. It blends well with azaleas since it likes similar conditions—a rich, well-drained, acid soil. Characteristics that make it so appealing are the dainty, charming bell-shaped white flowers that bloom abundantly in April and provide pollen for bees. The bark and shape of the Carolina Silverbell make it beautiful in every season.

If you are searching for an upright, narrow conifer, I really love the **DeGroot's Spire Eastern Arborvitae**.

It is so columnar that it looks like an exclamation point! It can be used in groupings, as a hedge, or as a single specimen. The lovely foliage folds and twists over itself making it quite a sculptural element.

DeGroot's Spire Arborvitae



An evergreen shrub that really should be grown more, the **Alexandrian Laurel**, also known as Poet's Laurel, prefers being grown in shade. The attractive narrow, dark green leaves are set upon gorgeous arching branches making it a lovely form. The foliage is popular with flower designers for use with cut flowers. In fall, beautiful orange/red berries add to its beauty and are enjoyed

Alexandrian Laurel



by the birds. Plants usually get around three feet tall and three feet wide. It is not commonly found in the nursery trade, because it is

rather slow to produce, but it is available from on-line sources. I grew mine from seed that I placed outside in my Glen Echo garden, and it is now a graceful shrub.

Some of the Asian honeysuckles have become terrible weeds, but we do have an excellent native **Trumpet Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens* 'Magnifica') that is a lovely vine. It prefers growing on a fence or trellis. I especially like to grow it for the hummingbirds that its bright orange/red flowers will attract to the garden. The

Trumpet Honeysuckle



abundant, sweetly scented tubular flowers appear for a long period through the summer followed by a red fruit that birds will enjoy.

Since many of the Asian "ornamental grasses" have proven to be quite weedy and really hard to get rid of, I primarily grow native grasses. For an incredible texture in the late summer/autumn garden, my favorite is the **Pink Muhly Grass** (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*). The billowing, misty vibrant pink flowers of this grass look like floating pink clouds. Grow Pink Muhly Grass in

Pink Muhly Grass



a sunny condition with well drained soil for a pleasant surprise in your garden.

I don't find the common annual begonia grown in the shade, the wax begonia, to be an interesting plant. Instead, I like to grow two cultivars that have been selected from the species **Begonia boliviensis** known as Waterfall or Firecracker. Throughout the summer, they produce a profusion of bright orange, bell shaped flowers that look wonderful in hanging baskets or in mixed containers for the shade. Their

Firecracker Begonia



semi-trailing habit spills over the edges of containers creating a waterfall of color.

The diversity of plants available to us continues to make gardening an interesting endeavor and gives us the opportunity develop dynamic outdoor habitats. —HOLLY SHIMIZU

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Adult Forum and Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Church School for All Ages	10:30 a.m.

■ UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, April 19, at 5:00 p.m.
Internationally Acclaimed Organist Nathan Laube in Concert

Sunday, May 17, at 5:00 p.m.
Gala Concert Marking Tenth Anniversary of Music Series

Sunday, May 31, at 5:00 p.m.
Solemn Evensong for Trinity Sunday

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You've heard Johnny Cash's rendition of "A Boy Named Sue?" Well, Glen Echo's newest homeowner is "A Woman Named Mitchell," specifically **Mitchell Strauss**, who explains that Mitchell is an old family name, deriving from Texas. In early February, Mitchell moved into the 1933-built stucco house at 6107 Princeton Avenue, which includes a detached two-story, two-car garage and workshop extending to Oxford Avenue. The sales flier (prepared by listing agent and next-door neighbor Patty Sieber) stated that, at 8,097 square feet, the lot is one of the largest in town. The seller,

NEW TO TOWN

George Borsari—long-time town resident and two-time Town Mayor (1977–1983 and 1989–1993)—moved to Florida. George has agreed to continue consulting on all things special and unique to "this old house."

Mitchell was born in Baltimore but was raised in Philadelphia where she attended the Germantown Friends School and also developed a love for Pocono Lake Preserve, PA. The family then moved to New Hampshire. College took her to Illinois, to Lake Forest College outside of Chicago.



Then came another move, this time to Connecticut for newly married life near Storrs. Mitchell earned her MBA from the University of Connecticut, after which she moved to Washington for her husband's new job on Capitol Hill. Her two children, Stuart and Gwynedd Arbury, attended Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, although they are now grown and living in Los Angeles and Phoenix. After 30-odd years in Chevy Chase, and having taken up oil painting with Dot Procter, she bought in Glen Echo where she hopes to immerse herself in art and music.

Since 1996, she has worked at The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the U.S. development finance institution. She is Special Advisor for Socially Responsible Investment Finance in the field of international development, specializing in creating new products and partnerships to assist American profit and not-for-profit entities to pursue endeavors in developing countries, with high social and/or environmental return, in addition to financial return.

Mitchell is looking forward to the spring migration of birds and many walks on the river. She also intends to renovate her historic house, explaining that she has adored old things since her childhood. She expresses "feeling very at home in this wonderful neighborhood and am especially happy to be living next door to Phyllis Fordham." Within only a few days, she felt as if she had known Phyllis her entire life. —GLORIA LEVIN

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LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Spring is here! In the D.C. area, we can look forward to a few glorious weeks of warm-but-not-too-warm weather, few bugs, and shockingly beautiful flowering trees. Don't squander these days sitting in traffic! Consider trading four wheels for two, as many Glen Echoans have been doing for years. A couple of the Town's seasoned cyclists, **Andréa Matney** and **Matt Stiglitz**, shared their tips on getting started. And having completed a handful of commutes myself, I'll also chime in as the voice of a new cyclist.

.....

Tell me about your commute.

Matt: My commute is approximately 9 ½ miles each way, and takes about 30 minutes, which is generally quicker than the drive to work.

Andréa: My trip is 10 miles, so coming in takes about 35–37 minutes and going home is about 40–45 minutes.

Angela: My ride is around 11 miles, and it's been taking me 50–60 minutes each way. I expect to shave time off my ride as I refine my route and technique.

What is the best part of your commute?

Matt: The best part about my commute is getting two workouts in per day (freeing



up my personal time) and having time to think.

Angela: It's great to be immune to traffic snarls and to always know how long my commute will be. My bike ride is longer than driving when there's no traffic, but in rush-hour traffic it can routinely take an hour to get home by car—and I am in a better mood after an hour-long bike ride than an hour on the Clara Barton Parkway.

Andréa: Everything! Freedom, self-reliance, consistent commute time, no traffic, endorphins, fresh air, camaraderie of fellow commuters, seeing animals, and rowing crews along the Potomac River.

How do you make yourself presentable at work after a ride?

Matt: We have showers in our building. I generally keep several suits and shirts in the office, which I'll change out on those days I have to drive in.

Angela: My office has a nice shower facility, and I store toiletries and a hair dryer there and keep work shoes under my desk. My office is relatively casual, so most days it's no problem to dress in clothes that have been rolled up in a backpack.

Andréa: I prepare gear and clothing the night before and in one place. I use hand towels instead of a full-size

to dry off. Roll clothing instead of folding to avoid wrinkles, and buy clothing that tends to not wrinkle. Finally, I store an extra set of clothes at work. You might forget your underwear one day! Just sayin'!

Angela: I can confirm that. **For someone just starting out, what is the most essential gear to have?**

Matt: For your bike, good front and rear lights, and a good rack/set of saddle bags to carry things.

Andréa: Always have tools and gear for fixing a flat tire, even if you don't know how to use them. Other cyclists will ask if you need help if you're stopped.

Angela: I carry everything in a backpack. My next purchases are going to



Andréa



Angela

be saddlebags, a bell, and a thermos for my coffee.

Do you use any “luxury items” that make your commute more pleasant?

Matt: I would recommend getting a good app for tracking your rides. I use Cyclemeter, but there are many to choose from.

Andréa: I love merino wool as a base layer, because it remains warm when wet and doesn't become smelly.

Angela: I use the Map My Run app to track my rides. It has options for various activities, including road cycling. It tells you your average pace and distance, which provides a nice incentive to pedal harder at the end of the ride. Also, it tracks calories burned. I have no idea if it's accurate but it's pretty motivational. I also discovered ridethe-city.com, which maps out

various route options to the destination you enter: safe, safer, and safest.

For bikers, what are the most critical safety considerations to keep in mind?

Matt: Be very aware of your surroundings, particularly when sharing the road with cars. I always assume that drivers don't see me and act accordingly. I also try not to do things that would annoy me if I were driving behind me.

Andréa: Always wear a helmet. Always wear bright clothing and use blinky lights (front and back). At night, add reflective gear to you and your bike—even when on the trail.

Angela: Ditto on the reflective clothing and lights. It makes me crazy to see people riding (or running, for that matter) in head-to-toe black clothing at dusk.

What would you ask drivers to do/remember when it comes to cyclists?

Matt: Please pay attention to your surroundings and try to leave a bit of space when passing. Also, understand that the pavement by the white stripe on the side of the road is generally in the worst condition (potholes, cracks, etc.), which is why cyclists often have to ride a couple of feet into the lane.

Andréa: When passing a cyclist, know that Maryland, D.C., and Virginia have a three-foot passing law. When on MacArthur's

multi-use trail, the most dangerous spots are the intersections, including those at MacArthur Boulevard in and out of town, the Irish Inn, Clara Barton Parkway entrance, and Brookmont. The trail is another lane of traffic, but when driving it's hard to see it that way.

When do you forego the bike—what is too hot/too cold/too wet for you?

Matt: I'll ride if it's above 20 degrees and if no precipitation.

Andréa: Only when icy.

Angela: I'm still working out my parameters. I rode in on a 35 degree morning and was fine, but I expect that excessive cold won't be the main weather problem in the coming months. I'm just getting started but am already getting hooked. And like any new routine, I am finding that the more often I ride, the easier it is—physically and logistically. —ANGELA HIRSCH, TheEchoActive@gmail.com



Nothing says spring like asparagus. I cook it all season in as many ways as possible. However, this **pasta with ham and asparagus** is my favorite.

In a sauce pan, saute bite-sized pieces of ham in olive oil. This could be bacon; it could be a ham steak; I often use sliced deli ham. Boil water for the pasta. Steam one bunch of asparagus, chopped into inch-long pieces, in a strainer over the pasta water for 4 minutes and then set aside. Proceed with salting the water and boiling your pasta. Add a bunch of sliced garlic to the ham and after a minute add the asparagus as well. Add a generous douse of cooking sherry, scraping

the bottom of the pan, and then mix in a small carton of heavy cream. Add ground nutmeg, tabasco, and a lot of grated parmesan. When the pasta is nearly cooked, drain it, saving a cup of

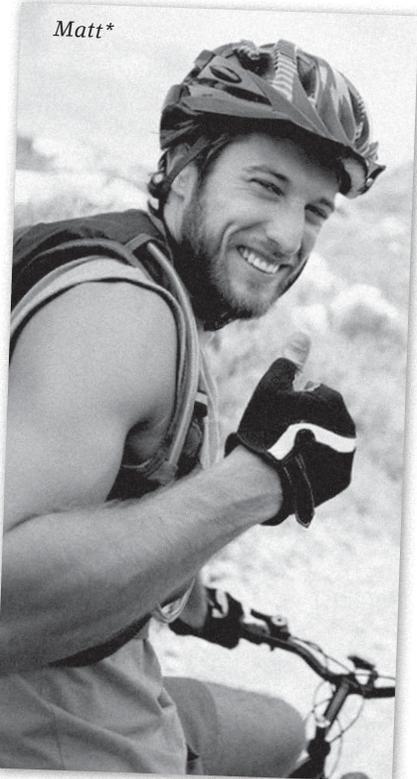


the salty cooking water. Pour both into the sauce and cook until it is thick and coats the pasta.

(This was inspired by a Williams-Sonoma recipe with ham and spinach.)

—EMILY PARSONS

Matt*



* MODEL POSING AS MATT COURTESY OF FOTOLIA IMAGES

HAVE YOU HEARD?



The view of 6102 Bryn Mawr Avenue from Susan Grigsby's porch

Fire broke out at **Debra Battista's** home at 6102 Bryn Mawr Avenue around 10 PM on March 29. Thankfully, Debra and her two dogs got out unharmed. Neighbors gathered in the street to watch as some 85 firefighters, using hydrants from throughout the neighborhood, worked to put out the blaze. According to the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service, the cause was electrical and there was an estimated \$600,000 worth of damage. The Victorian cottage is one of Glen Echo's original Chatauqua houses. At press time, there are limited details about what neighbors can do to help.

.....

It is with equal degrees of regret and happiness that **Beth Rockwell and Jim Ford** announce that they are moving (along with their barking dogs, to Phyllis Fordham's equal degrees of regret

and joy). Beth's mother, Jeanette, is happy to be returning home to Cape Cod. Beth is retiring and Jim will be job hunting in Falmouth, Massachusetts. They purchased a historic home eight

minutes from the beach and look forward to renovating and making it their own as they did 7300 University



7300 University Avenue

Avenue, which will be on the market in the next month or two. "We'll miss Glen Echo! We love our neighbors and the community."

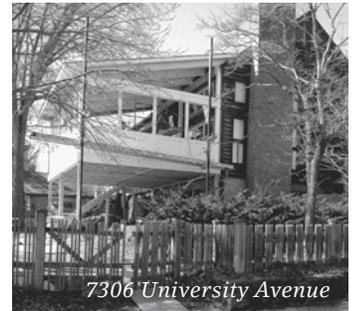
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The new owners of Eleanor Balaban's house, **Anne Speca and Lyonel Moreau**, are embarking on an update of 6003 Bryn Mawr. Upon completion, they plan to rent



6003 Bryn Mawr Avenue

the house for a year while their twin 4-year-olds finish up pre-school in Columbia Heights before making the move to Glen Echo. There are rumors of shiitake mushroom cultivation and art glass on the premises. Say hello if you see them working on their new home in the upcoming months.



7306 University Avenue

The renovation of the home of **Matt and Susan Stiglitz**, in full-swing now at 7306 University Avenue, will include a new front porch and door and a new back deck with a screened-in porch. They expect completion in the next month.

.....

Major change is coming to the **Westwood Shopping Center** and the surrounding area. While Glen Echo



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LADIES NIGHT

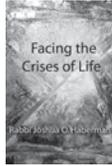
6000 HARVARD AVE • PHYLLIS DAEN HOSTING

isn't within the Westbard area, the changes, which could include 500-700 new residential units and an underground parking garage, will impact our traffic, schools, retail, and water runoff. A March 16 meeting of the Westbard Concept Framework Group attracted about 80 people from Tulip Hill, Bannockburn, Glen Echo Heights, and Glen Echo, who were concerned about the proposed relocation of the Little Falls library and the height of the new residential buildings. There is still a marginal amount of time for public input. A draft

of the plan will be presented to the Montgomery County Planning Board on April 23, and the public hearing to discuss it will be on May 14.

.....

A painting by local artist **Debi Sacks** provides the cover for a new book edited and published by **Debbie Lange / New Publishing Partners**. Congrats on this Glen Echo collaboration!



Real Estate Report
6000 Bryn Mawr Avenue is still looking for a renter for \$4,000/month.

THEY SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

April 12, **Durke Anderson**, 5
 April 19, **Adeline Bohi**, 8
 April 27, **Max White**, 4

Send your children's names and birth dates (up to age 14) to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and \$1.50 per line for non-residents. Send your ad to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com.

.....

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.

.....

April 18 - A Shred Day will be held 12-2 PM at 2 Vassar Circle. Patty Sieber at Stuart & Maury Realtors is sponsoring the event. Many thanks to Aaron

Hirsch for allowing use of the Church parking lot! Bring your boxes of confidential documents to have them destroyed right in front of you. There is no need to remove staples, paper clips, binding clips, or file folders. Questions? Contact Patty at 240-743-7194.

.....

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GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance
Wednesdays,
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 8-10:30 PM; free to town residents



April 12 C&O Canal Association Board meeting, 1 PM, at Town Hall

April 18 Potomac Valley Fiddle Club Spring Dance, 2-5 PM, at Town Hall

Local Events

April 19, 5 PM, 26-year-old organist Nathan Laube in concert at The Church of the Redeemer.

Glen Echo Park Activities



THE PUPPET CO.
www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380

Jack and the Beanstalk,
 March 19-May 3

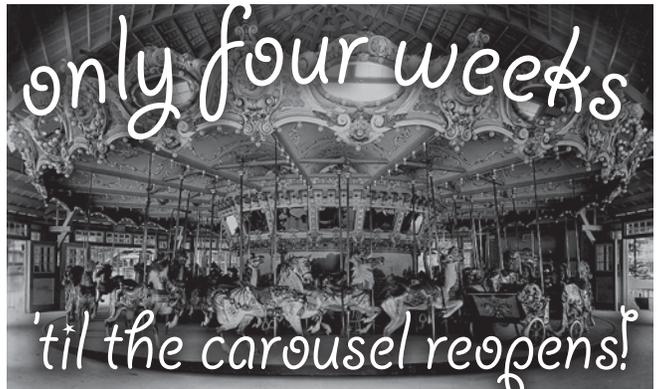
Tiny Tots, select Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 10AM

ADVENTURE THEATER MTC
www.adventuretheater-mtc.org;
 301-634-2270

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
 April 3-May 25

Looking Ahead

May 2, 11 AM-4 PM, Family Day at Glen Echo Park. The Carousel opens for its 95th season with a day of magic shows, music, dancing, face painting, and tours.





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