



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The Mayor and three of the Town Council Members were present at the September 14 Town Council meeting. Dia Costello was absent.

Glen Echo Park Report

National Park Service representative Aaron LaRocca reported that renovations on the Clara Barton house will start soon. The small upper parking lot near the house will be closed during this process, probably two years. The park officials have to have a new temporary entrance to the park by spring 2016.

Mr. LaRocca also reported that the trees in the Crystal Pool were cut down to get a good look at the area and its potential for future projects. The park is only allowed to build on 40 percent of the area.

Pepco

There was continued discussion about the tree clearing on the right of way

to make way for construction of a new line. Mayor Beers reported Pepco will be planting new, shorter trees, which will not be directly underneath the new line. The trees will probably include crape myrtles, dogwoods, and serviceberries. The planting is scheduled to commence in October. Pepco has allotted more trees than can be planted, according to the Mayor, and the extras will be given away to residents on a first-come-first-served basis. However, the Mayor cautioned that residents are not permitted to plant in the right of way. Pepco has an easement for the right of way, giving the utility the right to cut down anything in the right of way.

Town Business

The Town attorney Norman Knopf recommended to the Council they commission a survey of the right of way that is the continuation of Wellesley Circle. The Town has agreed to rent back the space to the adjoining residents. Mr. Knopf recommended the Town charge those residents for the cost of the survey. Mr. Knopf also recommended the agreement include language stipulating under what circumstances the Town can revoke the agreement, given "good cause."

The Town Council is continuing to consider bids for the milling and repaving of the Town Hall/post office parking lot. The work will be done this fall, and will probably take two days, according to the Mayor.

The Halloween party will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday, October 31, from 5:30 to 6:30 with trick or treating to immediately fol-

low. The holiday party date has been set for Saturday, December 12, starting at 10 AM at the Town Hall. It will be catered by Mr. Omelet.

2 Vassar Circle

The Council again discussed the issue of the property at 2 Vassar Circle owned by resident Aaron Hirsch. Members of the Council said they still had questions about the widening of the street proposed by Mr. Hirsch. Mr. Hirsch was present and offered to answer questions, but the Council said they preferred to retire to executive session with attorney Mr. Knopf to discuss the issue. Council Members said they will probably schedule another public hearing on the new plan by Mr. Hirsch.

Police Report

From July 10 to August 5, off-duty police officers gave 8 citations and 27 warnings for failure to stop at the stop sign

THE ECHO

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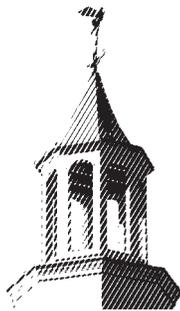
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Next Deadline: October 20, 2015

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: October 12, 2015, 8 PM

on Oxford Road. The Town paid \$360 for these services.

Town Expenses

In August 2015, the Town paid \$4,207 to Waste Management of Maryland, \$2,945 to Chapel Valley Landscaping, and \$1,596 to Knopf & Brown.

—JULIA WILSON

Correction: The September issue reported that the partnership agreement between Glen Echo Park and Montgomery County expires October 17, 2015. It actually expires June 30, 2017. We also reported that the new aquarium has a 15-year lease, which it does not.

COACH RENNY

It all started when the Springuel family was looking for opportunities for more exercise and engagement for their then-teenage son, Mark, a native of Glen Echo. They found the County's branch of Special Olympics (SO) and enrolled him in a cross-country skiing program. More than ten years later, Dad Renny Springuel is a fully engaged parent volunteer in the local branch and is head coach of three of its sports programs—snowshoeing (winter), bocce (spring), and bicycling (summer). (He estimates that 20 sports are offered.)

As soon as Mark became a SO athlete, Renny pitched in to assist, saying, "I am not one to sit on the sideline and read a book." Later, when the snowshoe program was losing its head coach, Renny was asked to take over, even though he had never himself snowshoed, much less coached the sport. However, after tak-

ing two daylong, SO-run training courses and being mentored for a few hours, he was certified as a coach in that sport. (Periodic continuing education is required for recertification of SO coaches. Some of the courses are taught online.)



Participants in the snowshoe program (averaging four to eight athletes per term) train on grass at a Gaithersburg park. The bocce athletes train on grass also, but a covered county bocce facility is available when it rains. Bicycling is practiced on a paved track. Renny and Mark head out for SO sports every weekend. Each season lasts three months, with a month off in between seasons. Renny

spends about five hours a week in coaching and administration, including paperwork. Additional time is invested in preparing for the statewide qualifying competitions at the end of the each season, including a weekend in Towson for the summer competition. In 2009, Renny was invited to coach the snowshoe competition for Team USA at SO's World Games, held in Idaho, and then again for 2011 in Athens, Greece, as a bocce coach.

Renny has found great joy in volunteering with the SO, from his involvement with a population of loving, highly motivated people – most of whom have heard all their lives about their limitations rather than their capabilities. He says that SO always needs volunteers and estimates that half of the local volunteers are not otherwise connected with a special needs person. Mark's older brother Padraic was once heavily involved in SO, volunteering to be a "unified partner" with his brother, playing doubles so as to balance abilities across teams. One can also volunteer to chaperone trips or to be a companion, monitoring an athlete's safety. Stints can be longterm like Renny's or very occasional. Student service learning (SSL) credits are given to middle and high school students for volunteering.

SO athletes are not

TOWN GIRL MEETS POPE

Emelia Bohi, the 12-year-old daughter of Jim and Kelly Bohi of Bryn Mawr Avenue, was one of the people you may have seen Pope Francis greeting during his visit to D.C. in September. Emelia shared her story with The Echo.

This is how it all happened. The Washington Archdiocese picked 24 schools using a lottery system, and each school was allowed to bring 11 kids. So on just another humdrum day, my mom received an email from Little Flower School. I was selected as one of the 13 from our school to welcome Pope Francis at the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See, also known as the Vatican Embassy on September 23 between the hours of 6 AM and 10 AM.

On the eve of September 23, my principal Sister Rosemaron made it clear that we were not allowed to bring any relics and to

speak clearly if the Pope spoke to us directly. She said we were only allowed to bring our phones and a rosary. On Wednesday, the 23rd, I woke up at 4:30 in the morning. I needed to be at my school by 5:15 AM. I also had to wear my



TV news footage of Emelia greeting Pope Francis outside the Vatican Embassy

winter uniform. When I arrived at my school they waited for everyone else to get there and then loaded us onto a bus, which took us to Annunciation Catholic Church, where all of the selected students met up. The entire group was about 70 people. They took us in three buses that were driven by the secret ser-

vice. They took us through security and there was a dog there that was sniffing all of the buses and cars. When we arrived at the Vatican Embassy, we could see camera crews everywhere. We had to wait there for almost three hours, but the wait was well worth it. To be that close to the pope and on television with him was an experience of a lifetime.

When Pope Francis came up to me, I reached my hand out, and in my other hand, I held two family rosaries: my Aunt Pat's rosary that had been previously blessed by Pope John Paul along with my namesake Great Grandmother Emelia's rosary. Pope Francis grabbed both of my hands and then touched my forehead. He came around asking that we all keep him in our prayers. Meeting Pope Francis was one of the coolest experiences I've ever had. —EMELIA BOHI

charged anything; their expenses (e.g., lift tickets for skiing and uniforms) are paid from donations. In Montgomery County, other than a part-time administrator, all the work is done

by volunteers. Renny encourages Town residents to become involved with SO, by volunteering or by a financial contribution. Application forms are provided, for multiple roles,

at www.somdmontgomery.org, to compete, volunteer, coach, and/or donate to the organization. Thanks to Renny for serving the special needs community. —GLORIA LEVIN



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This month, let's talk about being "green" in our yards. Did you know that Montgomery County has a neat "rainscapes" program that you might be interested in? If that term is not familiar, here is the brief description right from the County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website: "The RainScapes program promotes and implements projects which reduce storm-water runoff and improve water quality on properties within Montgomery County, MD. The County offers technical and financial assistance (in the form of RainScapes Rewards Rebates) to encourage property owners to implement eligible RainScapes techniques on their property."

So essentially, in order to get residents to help with the goal of reducing stormwater runoff prob-

EASY BEING GREEN

lems, the County provides cash money rebates for certain types of projects you might want to do in your yard. Yes, it's going to take a long time to make a dent in stormwater runoff issues one small backyard project at a time, but that doesn't mean it's still not a good idea! And businesses

are eligible too, with higher rebates for presumably bigger projects.

I'll get right to the prime piece of information: The

maximum rebate allowed per residential property is \$2,500. You can do a few projects that add up to that amount, and here is a list of the rebate-eligible water management techniques:

- Conservation landscaping with native plants to replace lawns

- Adding a rain garden to collect rainfall

- Removing pavement and/or installing permeable pavers

- Water harvesting with a cistern or rain barrel

- Installing a dry well

- Planting trees to increase leaf canopy

- Installing a green roof (if you're really ambitious!)

If you want to consider any of these actions, the County has a lot of information and support to help you out. First, if you look online at www.rainscapes.org, there are many pages of information and even videos to get started. If you want to move forward after reviewing the website, you can get in touch with the County DEP. They will start by answering questions on the phone, guide you, if needed, through the process of submitting an application, and then eventually send a planner to do a site visit at your house

to help you design your project (except if it's just a rain barrel or tree planting). To help execute your chosen project, the County can also provide names of landscaping contractors trained in rainscapes techniques. (Since rain barrels aren't that complicated, they don't need a site visit. There are detailed instructions on the DEP website for how to construct and set them up, or they have workshops you can attend in person. But you do have to install at least 200 gallons of capacity at your house to be eligible for rebates.)

Once the project is done, County staff inspect the work in person and certify your compliance with your approved plans, and then you can turn in your receipts to process the rebate check! Since rebate funds are awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis beginning on the first day of the fiscal calendar, which is July 1, now is a good time of year to apply. —MICKIE SIMPSON



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THE DISH

One of my most deeply held food aversions is eggplant, but one year my farm-share box required me to get over it already. And now, now my mind wanders, wondering when those big purple beauties will show up each year. Here's how I faced the last of my childhood food phobias:

Eggplant Parmesan.

Like any dish you make

with a tomato sauce, it is different every time. I make whatever type of tomato sauce I'm in the mood for, but experience has led me to believe a lighter sauce is better. Loading it up with sausage and peppers makes the dish a wee bit overwhelming. There's already a lot going on.

Mario Batali's trick is to bake rather than fry the eggplant. I happily follow. Slice your eggplant into ½–1 inch thick rounds. Toss with olive oil, salt, and pepper, and then bake at

450 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes. Let them cool enough to handle and then this becomes a layering job. I'm the kind of cook who enjoys the bounty. I mean, why use half an onion when you can use a whole one. I take every recipe and essentially double all my favorite ingredients. This is the guiding principle of my cooking.

Using a glass baking dish, spread a layer of sauce and then six (or so) of your largest



eggplant rounds. Next comes a slice of fresh mozzarella to each, a slice of mortadella if desired, a basil leaf, and another layer of sauce.

Repeat until you've got six beautiful towers with their moats of sauce. Cover the whole thing in grated Parmesan and bread crumbs, and bake for 20–30 minutes at 350 degrees. Then toast to your adulthood with a nice Italian and start dreaming of those leftovers. —EMILY PARSONS

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

If you're spending crisp October weekends inside, you'd better have a good reason.

One good reason is that you're baking apple pies for your neighbors because you picked so many apples at Homestead Farms in Poolesville, MD. Homestead is quite an operation during pumpkin season (I am sure I have been on at least ten class trips there) but it still manages to feel like a real farm and not like a fall-themed theme park.

While I'm on the subject of apple pies, let me recommend two things: First, Martha Stewart's paté brisée crust recipe never fails. Second, an automatic apple peeler is an amazing contraption. It peels, cores, and slices apples in seconds. It'll make you want to make pies for all your neighbors.

Not a pie maker? Then

maybe you're inside learning to bake. Or make seasonal cocktails. Or vegan Indian food. *The Washington Post's* annual roundup of cooking classes is online and searchable, with hundreds of classes offered all around the area to bust you out of the deepest dinnertime rut.

Maybe you're inside because you've read Marie Kondo's *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* and are mindfully caressing all your possessions to determine which provoke feelings of delight. Happily, October brings opportunities to thank your possessions and free them to bring joy to someone else. Glen Echo's town-wide yard sale is October 3, and Bannockburn Nursery School's rummage sale is October 10 at the Bannockburn Clubhouse. Donations will be

accepted starting on October 8, and are tax deductible.

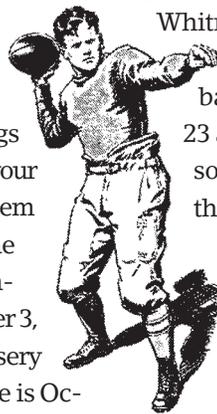
Or you could be inside recovering from an afternoon at Sugarloaf Winery's Grape Stomp, which takes place on the first two weekends in October. Admission includes a souvenir glass, live music, and various competitive grape stomping activities. Messy fun for the whole family.

You might be inside gargling after loudly cheering on the home team at Whitman High School's homecoming football game on October 23 against Walter Johnson High School or the girls varsity soccer team's final home game on October 16 against NCS. Go Vikings!

Later in the month, you'd be forgiven if you spend some indoor

time perfecting your Halloween costume. Don't wait until the 31st to show off your handiwork, though. The National Zoo's Boo at the Zoo runs October 23–25 (buy tickets in advance) and Cabin John Regional Park's Halloween train runs every weekend in October. And the Udvar-Hazy Center's annual Air and Scare on October 24 promises "the spooky side of air and space ... safe indoor trick-or-treating, creepy crafts, spooky science experiments, and other Halloween-themed activities."

Even with so many good reasons to stay inside, do be sure to get out and enjoy the best time of the year—even if it's only to enjoy some apple pie on your porch. Just be sure to save me a piece! —ANGELA HIRSCH
TheEchoActive@gmail.com



I began composting in Glen Echo over twenty years ago. Although it was a slow composting process, all seemed to be going well, using my standard composting bin. Then one day I went outside to add kitchen scraps and looked straight into the eyes of a rat! It jumped out and ran, while I screamed. I had to find a better way. Composting is simple, and I have learned from experience that it can be easy and done in a way that is rodent-free.

After the rat, I needed to come up with a new plan. I wanted to find a system that the rats could not jump into or dig tunnels through or under in order to reach the food scraps. A system that composted more quickly would be important as well. I did some online shopping and found something called the compost tumbler that is a closed cylindrical metal bin set into a holder so it is above ground with a handle for turning. When it arrived it was in a number of pieces, which had to be assembled.

HOLLY IN THE IVY

The product's manufacturer promises you will have compost in two weeks, which is an outright lie, but the system is a lot faster because you can turn it frequently, and it is easier to balance the green (nitrogen-rich) and brown (carbon-rich) components to the compost mix.

Carbon-rich brown materials include dry autumn leaves, straw, or dry garden clippings.

Nitrogen-rich green materials include fresh cut grass, garden clippings, kitchen waste, eggshells, and coffee grounds (no meat!). The most important thing to remember is that you need to achieve a balance between brown and green, so your compost will not smell and will happen quickly. If the material in my tumbler starts to get all wet and smells, I know I need to add in dry leaves or straw to get the compost back where it needs to be.

To start, I place some soil in the tumbler and then I begin adding my vegetable scraps and garden clippings. Each time I go to the compost tumbler, I turn it a few times to keep it moving. Once I see that the materi-



als have broken down and are not recognizable, I move them from the tumbler into the stationary compost bin. I have already placed soil around the base and sides of the bin, and now I put the compost in the bin middle and then surround it with more soil. This minimizes food smells that could attract rodents. I water it and cover it, and the rich compost will be ready in one to three months, depending on the location and temperature.

The reason I choose to have my two composters is that the initial kitchen waste (the part that attracts the rats) goes directly into the tumbler which is a completely closed system that rats cannot enter. Once the material inside the tumbler is decomposed and no longer smells (to my nose), I can add it into the bin nearby for the last stretch of composting.

Organic matter placed in the compost provides food for the microorganisms and then nutrients are produced as a result. Compost is like black gold for the garden. When it is ready, it should be a rich humus that is filled with life. Whether you dig it into a garden bed or place it on top as a mulch, good compost is the best nourishment you can provide to grow healthy, strong plants.

Soil is like the stomach of a garden: It feeds the plants on the rich complex of organic material it contains. —HOLLY SHIMIZU

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HAVE YOU HEARD?

The Halloween spider on the home of **Joci and Karim Khalifa** (7308 University Ave) will re-appear this October. They expect lots of baby spiders to be born, so come add yours to the spider web that will be erected on the front of the



7308 University Avenue

house. All Glen Echo young people are invited to participate. So please add your spider any time after October 17 and make it no larger than 16 inches in diameter so there will be plenty of room for all.

.....

Wellesley Circle resident **Peter Zeidenberg**, an at-

torney for the law firm Arent Fox, made front page news on September 11 in both *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* as the defense attorney for two prominent Chinese scientists who were accused of passing classified information to the

Chinese government. The U.S. government dropped all charges against both the scientists and acknowledged it had inaccurate information.

.....

It's always sad to say goodbye to good neighbors, but guests at the going-away party for **Jim Ford** and **Beth Rockwell** hosted by

Jane Stevenson were also heavy hearted when the last of the peanut chicken brought by the Shimizus disappeared. *The Echo* has the exclusive on Osamu's tasty chicken recipe. Enjoy!

.....

Things have been relatively quiet at 6102 Bryn Mawr Avenue, the site of a March 29 fire. Interior work is being done, according to owner **Debra Battista**, though



6102 Bryn Mawr Avenue

it has been slow due to the County's less-than-speedy permit process. Debra hopes to be back in residence in January 2016.

OSAMU'S PEANUT BUTTER CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 ½ – 3 pounds organic chicken
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 3 Tbsp freshly ground organic peanut butter
- 3 cloves crushed garlic
- ¼ cup sherry or sake
- 2 tsp sugar
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 4 Tbsp olive oil
- ½ squeezed lime juice
- 2 Tbsp grated fresh ginger
- add hot peppers as desired

DIRECTIONS:

Marinate for at least ½ hour (if you are in a hurry poke the chicken with a fork to help it absorb the seasonings). Grill or broil until cooked. Serves 5.

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The Cravin' Dogs

Bannockburn Nursery School is having its fall **rummage sale** on October 10, from 9 AM–12 PM, at the Bannockburn Clubhouse. Come out to support a good cause! Better yet, donate anything you don't manage to sell in the Glen Echo yard sale. Donations will be accepted at the clubhouse October 8 and 9, all day. Donations can include furniture, clothing, toys, baby items, household goods, kitchen gadgets/appliances, books, etc.

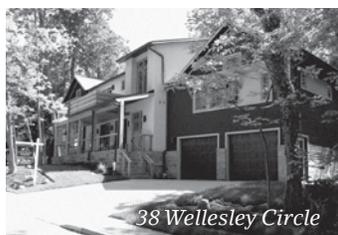
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Tom Helf's band, Cravin' Dogs, will be playing at Villain & Saint in Bethesda on Friday, October 16. They will be playing two sets starting at 9 PM, and tickets are \$10

in advance, and \$12 at the door. For those who don't know, Cravin' Dogs is a five-piece, all original band playing "sweet old roots rock augmented by a healthy dose of restless big city experimentalism." Come see Tom wail on the drums.

Real Estate Report

After being off the market temporarily, 38 Wellesley is back at \$1,649,000. Across the street, 37 Wellesley has had a price decrease to \$825,000.



38 Wellesley Circle

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.

.....

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GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, **October 7, 14, 21, 28** 8–10:30 PM, free to town residents

October 31 5:30–6:30 PM

TOWN HALLOWEEN PARTY

with trick-or-treating to follow



Local Events

October 2 6 PM, Bannockburn Nursery School's Family Film Festival

October 3 9 AM–2 PM, Glen Echo town-wide yard sale

October 4, 11, 18 3:30–4:30 PM, Healthy Kids Running Series at Cabin John Local Park, races for kids pre-K to 8th grade, \$10 per race

October 24 10 AM–2 PM, Truck Touch at Suburban Nursery School

Glen Echo Park Activities

October 9–11 Capital Blues hosts music and workshops during its BamBLOOZled weekend

October 31 1–4 PM, Fall Frolic will include pumpkin decorating, trick-or-treating, and a costume parade

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The Velveteen Rabbit, through Oct. 18

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THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

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	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

Monday, October 2, at 7:30 p.m.
Contemplative Service in the Style of Taizé

Sunday, October 31, at 6:00 p.m.
All Hallow's Eve Liturgy

Sunday, November 1, at 5:00 p.m.
Choral Requiem Mass for the Feast of All Souls

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