



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ JANUARY 2016

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Mayor Beers and the entire Council were in attendance at the Town Council Meeting on December 14, 2015.

Glen Echo Park Report

National Park Service representative Aaron LaRocca reported that the contractor was recently approved to begin the roof restoration at Clara Barton House. The house has been closed since October for a two-stage project that will include installation of a fire suppression system next spring after the roof restoration is completed.

The Glen Echo Park management agreement between the Park Service, Montgomery County, and the Glen Echo Parks Partnership for Arts and Culture is set to expire in 2017. Montgomery County is currently in the process of drafting a new agreement and will provide it to the Park Service soon.

In November, Mr. LaRocca, the Mayor, Council Member Matney, and Valerie Beckel, the Park Service trails supervisor, walked the Union Arch Trail connecting MacArthur Boulevard to the C&O Canal. They identified several issues with trail conditions, including broken railroad ties and eroded steps, and discussed how the trail can be improved. The plan is to contact adjacent communities such as Bannockburn and Cabin John to start a community volunteer effort next spring to improve the trail with supervision from the Park Service. Mr. LaRocca stated that he was excited about this kind of project and that it is in line with the goals established for the centennial year of the National Park Service. Details need to be worked

out, but it's possible that the Park could provide materials for the project. The discussion also included procuring materials through corporate donations and opportunities for Boy Scouts looking for Eagle Scout projects or Walt Whitman students working on class-related Environmental Science projects.

2 Vassar Circle

Unless you're living under a rock, you've heard about the development of 2 Vassar Circle. Mr. Aaron Hirsch is planning to demolish the existing church structure and subdivide the property to build homes on four separate lots. In November, Mr. Hirsch submitted a plan for development and roadway improvements on Vassar Circle. There was a robust discussion of support and opposition to this plan on the town listserv leading up to the planned vote at the December Council meeting. The vote did not take place

because of updates to the plan and a formal waiver request from Mr. Hirsch.

In early December, Mr. Hirsch updated the plan and submitted a formal waiver request to the road construction ordinance the Council passed in June 2014. Mr. Hirsch's development plan includes paying for all road improvements to achieve a minimum 28-foot road width for safety as required by the ordinance but it also results in the loss of some existing parking spaces around the circle. With the goal of increasing roadway safety, the ordinance requires a transfer to Town ownership of all property within 25 feet of the center of a roadway before subdivision can occur. The ordinance also includes a clause that specifically allows the Council to waive any provisions of the ordinance that may "deprive the subdivider ... of all reasonable use of the property."

THE ECHO

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EDITOR Emily Parsons
(TheEchoEditor@gmail.com)

ART EDITOR Mary Parsons

CONTRIBUTORS Jerry Bodlander, Matt Costello, Phyllis Fordham, Angela Hirsch, Ellen Leary, Gloria Levin, Rex Rhein, Debi Sacks, Leland Schwartz, Martha Shannon, Holly Shimizu, Patty Sieber, Mickie Simpson, Matt Stiglitz, Bill Vincent, Bonnie Whyte, Julia Wilson

COPY EDITORS Maire Hewitt, Debbie Lange,

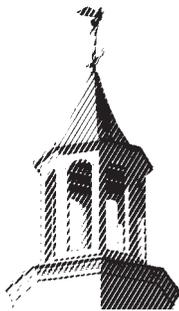
ADVERTISING Patty Sieber (EchoAdRep@gmail.com)

DISTRIBUTION Jane Stevenson, Jan Shaut, Sally Law, Raya Bodnarchuk, Maire Hewitt

CIRCULATION Susan Grigsby

Next Deadline: January 20, 2016

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

MARYLAND 20812

Phone: 301-320-4041 Fax: 301-320-3639

Website: www.glenecho.org

Office: 6106 Harvard Ave.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 598, Glen Echo, MD 20812

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 5 PM to 7 PM

MAYOR

Debbie Beers (301-229-7308)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Matt Stiglitz (301-229-0926)

Nancy Long (301-332-3823)

Dia Costello (301-538-7784)

Steve Matney (301-320-2059)

CLERK-TREASURER

Stacey Malmgren (301-320-4041)

Next Town Council Meeting: January 11, 2016, 8 PM



The waiver requests that the Town accept a Public Improvement Easement as an alternate approach to a transfer of property ownership to satisfy the desired roadway safety measures without preventing Mr. Hirsch from subdividing the property into four lots. The Town must give residents 30 days to review the proposal and hold a public hearing before granting a waiver, so the Council voted to schedule a **special hearing** on this topic on **January 25**. The most recent plan and waiver have been sent out for review on the listserv and are also available for review in the Town Hall. The Council has requested written comments to the plan be submitted by January 18.

Town Business

The Council discussed ongoing efforts to curtail stop sign violations at Oxford and University. The Park Service recently installed a stop sign on the left side of Oxford to

help the situation. Various solutions, including a stop sign lit with LEDs, stop sign cameras, and moving the existing speed bump have been discussed many times in the past. The Council agreed that moving the speed bump appears to be the next step that should be taken and they will contact Washington Gas to see if they will do this as part of the recent gas installation process.

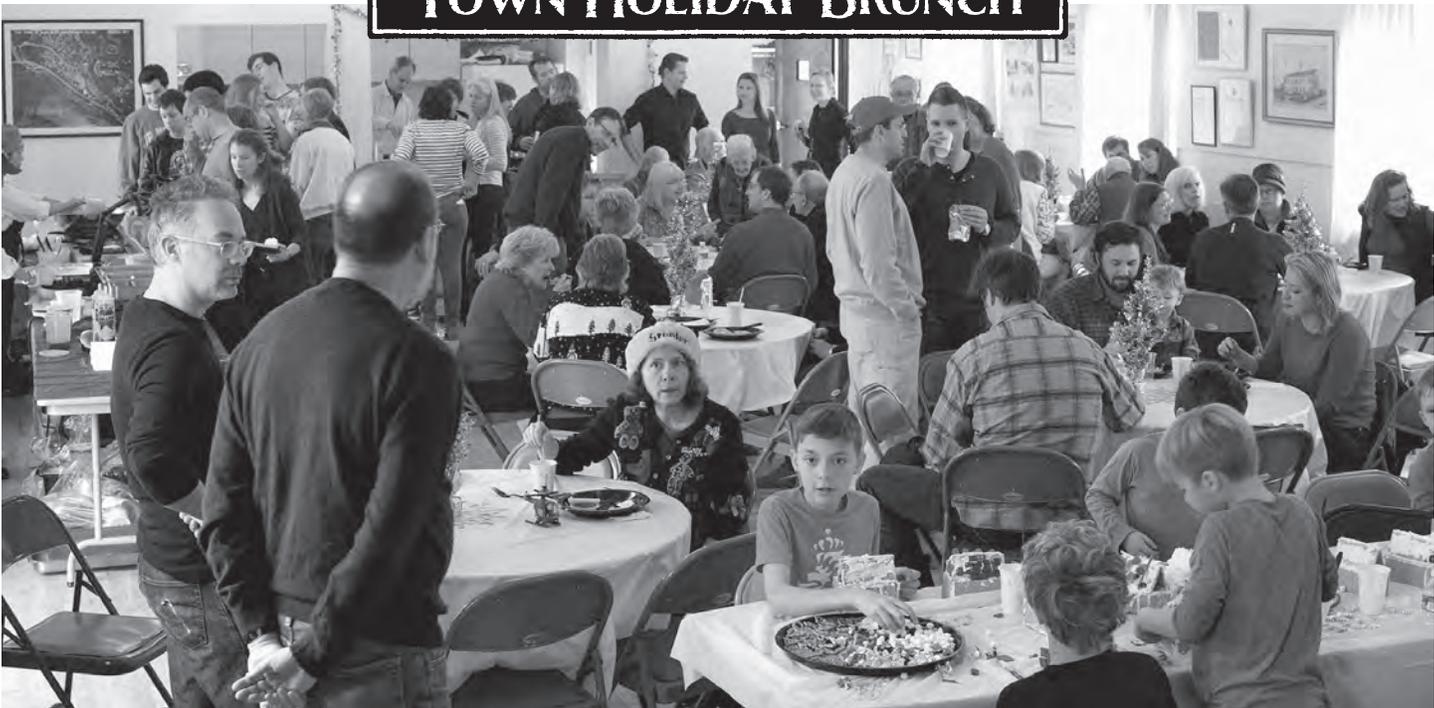
Holly Shimizu asked the Council to send a letter to Montgomery County supporting the ban on the use of pesticides for cosmetic use. She was asked to provide a draft letter for the Council to review and discuss at the January Council meeting.

—BILL VINCENT

Town Expenses

In November, the Town paid \$10,400 to Charles Cooley Stonework for sidewalk repair, \$5,940 to Dennis Alexander, auditor, and \$4,176 to Waste Management of Maryland.

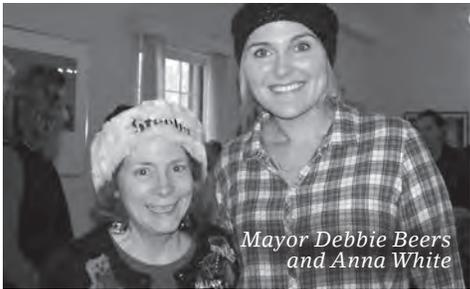
TOWN HOLIDAY BRUNCH



Greta and Conrad Hirsch



Willem and Dan Macy



Mayor Debbie Beers and Anna White



Hungry throngs await omelets and waffles.



Kids, young and old, build gingerbread houses.



Sally McGunnigle and former Echo editor Phyllis Fordham

The December 12 Town holiday party was a huge success with every seat in the house filled and then some. Residents savored a delicious brunch at festively decorated tables and children made gingerbread houses and enjoyed their annual yuletide sugar highs. Photos by Matt Costello and Patty Sieber



Newcomers? See page 6.



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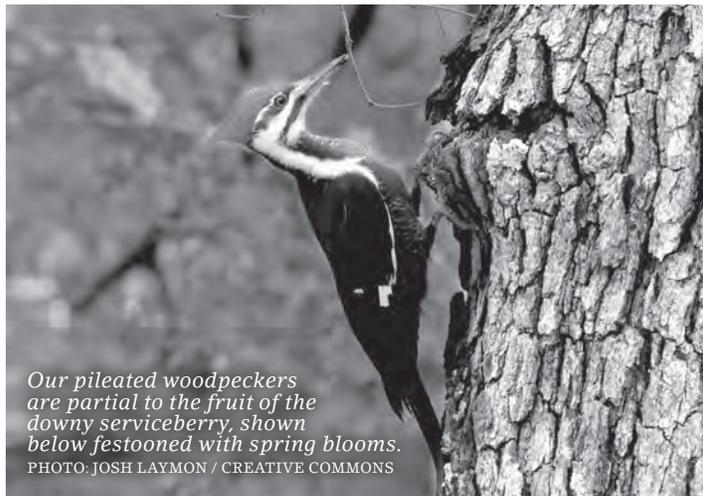
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This is the time of year to meander through your garden and decide what you want to change, rearrange, or improve. I want my garden to be a home for birds, butterflies, frogs, and other life. I want to create a dynamic space where I can connect with the surrounding environment of Glen Echo as well as the unique ecological diversity of the Potomac River Gorge. The stretch of 15 miles from Great Falls to Georgetown is home to more than 200 rare plant and animal species and natural communities. We should not take this “natural wonder” for granted. It’s critical that we do not include invasive plants in our gardens as they are apt to escape into the nearby natural areas. Also, the use of pesticides will have a negative impact on our birds and butterflies and wash into our waterways and ultimately into our drinking water.

My porch is a great place for bird watching and this is one aspect of my garden that I can enhance with the addition of certain plants. For example, I see pileated woodpeckers on surrounding trees. They tap into trees searching for carpenter ants, but I know there are berry plants they also love. A good example is the delicious fruit of downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*). It is a small tree, gorgeous in every season with lovely white spring flowers fol-

HOLLY IN THE IVY



Our pileated woodpeckers are partial to the fruit of the downy serviceberry, shown below festooned with spring blooms.
PHOTO: JOSH LAYMON / CREATIVE COMMONS



lowed by reddish, purplish fruit, brilliant fall color, and attractive winter bark. The delectable fruit resembles blueberries although they have an even sweeter taste. Fruit of most *Amelanchier* species are highly attractive to a host of birds including cedar waxwings, catbirds, mockingbirds, orioles, and many more.

Birds, together with butterflies and bees, are known to be highly attracted to elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *canadensis*). The dark blue fruit makes a delicious

jam for humans and is a favorite food for a range of birds including brown thrashers, Eastern bluebirds, Baltimore orioles, American goldfinch, and scarlet tanagers. Butterflies and bees adore the nectar-rich white flowers that appear in June.

Another excellent choice is bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) shrub as the fruit is a favorite for many songbirds. It is a semi-evergreen shrub and makes a fine hedge or windbreak. You must have male and female

plants; male to pollinate and female to produce the fruit. In September, once the fruit ripens, it is a treat for Carolina wrens, tufted titmice, and tree swallows. Since the birds do not have teeth for chewing the fruit, the outer coating is digested and the seed moves through the digestive tract allowing the bayberry a chance to propagate itself.

The stunning purple fruit of the American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) are a garden show-stopper and will attract many fall migrants and other berry-eating birds into the garden. The northern bobwhites, eastern towhees, thrashers, finches, and woodpeckers will all feast on your American beautyberry plants. This shrub is a graceful, fast growing native of the southern U.S.

Back in the early 1990s, I worked with garden designer and writer Carole Ottesen. She wrote a book, *The Native Plant Primer*, about the design and installation of a native garden in Bartholdi Park at the U.S. Botanic Garden. Once planted, the Garden immediately became a rich habitat where humming and buzzing sounds could always be heard. Her design success provided me with an opportunity to demonstrate the concept “Plant it and they will come” because that is exactly what happened! —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**

A well-timed introduction to Glen Echo was accomplished by the Epanchin family (Pete, Becky, 4 ½-year-old Colby, and one-year-old Lara Tattiana) when they attended the Town's December 12 holiday party, a week before moving into their new home. They are the new owners of 38 Wellesley—the longtime home of Jim and Carlotta Anderson, our dearly departed town icons. Town residents welcomed them warmly, and a list of available babysitters in town was initiated.

Pete was raised in San Rafael, California, in Marin County. His family lived in Africa for part of his youth, because of his father's position with an international engineering firm. He earned his bachelor's degree from UC Santa Cruz (Environmental Science), his PhD at UC Davis (Ecology), and he completed a postdoc at Berkeley—having made the rounds of the University of California system!

Although Becky Epanchin-Niell was born in southern California, she lived in Massachusetts from the 4th grade until high school graduation, whereupon she returned west, earning a bachelor's degree from Stanford in Earth Systems. She then lived in Reno, Nevada, for seven years, working as a biologist specializing in Nevada and California but-

NEW TO TOWN

terflies. While in Nevada, she earned a master's degree, after which she went to UC Davis for her PhD (Agricultural and Resource Economics). The couple first met in Nevada, when Becky escorted Pete (then working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of Sacramento) to butterfly field sites—her expertise being the Carson wandering skipper, an endangered butterfly species. However, their relationship only began later when, coinciden-



tally, they ended up in the same class at Davis.

A year after completing their doctorates, Becky and Pete came east for her dream job at Resources for the Future in DC where she does research on environmental policy. Pete continued to work on his postdoc research from their two-bedroom apartment in Adams Morgan. Three months after arriving in Washington, Colby was born, and Pete was a

stay-at-home dad for just over a year. Upon obtaining a fellowship from the AAAS, he first worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. After a year there, he moved to USAID for two years as a Fellow. He has since moved into a staff position at USAID, working on climate change. Meanwhile, the family grew with the addition of "Lara T."

They learned of Glen Echo when their online house hunting brought them to the Wellesley Circle

house. They explored the neighborhood, chatted with people they met while walking around the town, and read *The Echo* online. "It just felt right." Before moving in, the house was upgraded, with electrical, roofing, and flooring work, and the installation of new windows. "We are just doing the basics now; plumbing is next. Once we move in, we'll have a better sense of the space and any additional work we want done." They look

forward to gardening and landscaping in the spring and welcome any tips, ideas, or visions. Julia Wilson—Jim and Carlotta's daughter and a town resident—said that she knows that her now-deceased parents would have picked the Epanchins as the new owners.

Both children will attend the Goddard School on Goldsboro Road, although they will miss the phenomenal (and free) pre-K program at H.D. Cooke in DC and the day care arrangement for Lara T. Next fall, Colby will join the many Glen Echo children attending Bannockburn Elementary School. Pete and Becky have checked out the bicycle commuting paths to downtown, hoping to continue to make bicycling their primary mode of transportation to work.

While sitting in their large back yard that backs on woods and hovers above the Parkway, the C&O Canal, and the Potomac River, they have begun a list of bird sightings, to be followed by other critters who show up. Pete, a devoted birder, was thrilled to learn that Roger Tory Peterson, the eminent ornithologist, had long rented the stone house next door at 42 Wellesley. The Epanchins welcome everyone to share stories of the Anderson family, so they will learn more of the legacy now entrusted to them.

—GLORIA LEVIN

THE DISH

New Year's Resolution: Host a dinner party and make a **pot au feu**. This French "pot on the fire" is the fanciest peasant food I can think of, especially when broken into courses: first, the clear, hot broth; second, the marrow scraped from the bones on toasted bread with mustard, horseradish, and salt sides; and third, the meat and vegetables. This dish is the opposite of easy, but it certainly dazzles. It's been on my mind recently with the passing of Chuck Williams, whose recipe I use, though he suggests simply serving the meat, veg, and marrow in broth all at once.

In a large soup pot, combine chicken stock and water in equal parts (say, 3 quarts of each). Add a bouquet garni in a cheese-cloth bag, including one leek sliced, 2 bay leaves, and 2 Tbsp black peppercorns. Add 3½ lb beef brisket and 4 beef shanks with marrow



bone. Bring to a boil and simmer on medium heat for 20–30 minutes, skimming any foam off the top.

Partially cover the pot, reduce the heat to low, and simmer about 2½ hours, continuing to skim any foam. Now it's time to add your vegetables: equal parts (say, 8 of each) of leeks sliced lengthwise and kept connected at the base, car-

rots halved lengthwise, and baby potatoes scrubbed. Add salt if needed, and simmer until the veggies are cooked, 20–30 minutes. Remove the bouquet garni; taste and adjust seasoning as needed. The meat will need to be sliced (brisket) or broken apart (shank meat).

Enjoy the flavorful, clear broth and toast to good health in the New Year. Indulge in the rich marrow spread on grilled or toasted bread, with sides of salt, Dijon mustard, and horseradish cream sauce, and toast to somewhat good health in the New Year. Savor the rustic simplicity of the meat and vegetables and toast to a very full and happy New Year. —EMILY PARSONS

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

2016 still sounds like a date in the distant space-age future to me, and yet, here we are. And what better way to start the year than with some resolutions? Here, for your consideration, are some resolutions tailored to the active Glen Echoan.

■ **Set a fitness goal.** Run a race or a set distance—register for a spring race! Commit to running or walking to Georgetown and indulging in a few delicious vegetable tacos at Chaia (7 miles)! You can always take an Uber home.

■ **Get involved in Glen Echo.** Host or attend your

first Ladies Night, attend a Council Meeting, or volunteer for a town event. Or plan something new—everyone in town can use the Town Hall free of charge twice a year.

■ **Think snow.** At the time of writing, the forecast is for the 70s, but surely, there's snow to come. Make sure you (and your kids) have boots, snow pants, and a sled; be prepared to make first tracks down Yale Avenue or at Bannockburn Elementary's hill when the snow inevitably comes. There's

nothing more dispiriting than cold, wet feet or trying to buy a sled the morning of a snowstorm.

■ **Think summer.** It feels a little Tiger Mom-ish, but a lot of summer camps start accepting registrations in January and fill up fast. Montgomery County's



recreation department offers dozens of fun and affordable camps—check the Web

site for registration dates.

■ **Learn something new.** Lest we forget: Glen Echo Park is right here. And as great as it is for kids, there are dozens of active offerings for adults as well. Try contra dancing on Fridays—there's a lesson every week before the dancing starts. January starts the winter term for a host of classes including modern dance, tai chi, Irish dance, and yoga.

Share your ideas and suggestions for a more fit, fun, and active 2016. Happy New Year to all! —ANGELA HIRSCH
TheEchoActive@gmail.com

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■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist, Rite II	8:00 a.m.
Adult Forum	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	9:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist, Rite II	10:30 a.m.
Church School for All Ages	10:30 a.m.

■ UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, January 4, at 7:30 p.m.
Contemplative Service in the Style of Taizé

Sunday, January 17, at 5:00 p.m.
Organist Christopher Betts in concert

Sunday, February 14, at 5:00 p.m.
Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent

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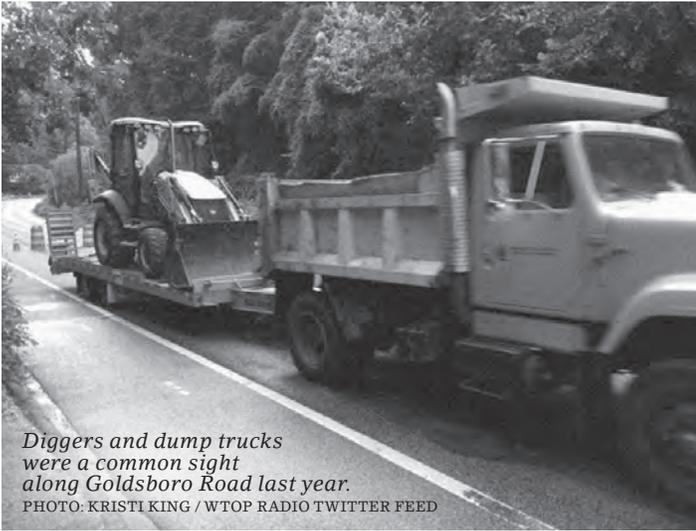
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DIG THIS



Diggers and dump trucks were a common sight along Goldsboro Road last year.

PHOTO: KRISTI KING / WTOP RADIO TWITTER FEED

Most of the digging and traffic control on Goldsboro near MacArthur this year has been due to the WSSC's water main replacement program as well as a water main break. Some of the work had to be repeated, WSSC says, because "unfortunately we had a bad contractor do some shoddy work and we had to go back in."

WSSC told *The Echo* that some of Goldsboro's pipes were over 75 years old and those primarily cast iron pipes have a lifespan of

roughly 50 years. The Commission said one third of its 5,600 miles of water mains are 50 years or older. The new pipes are ductile iron and are "lined," which means they have a protective sheath around them. WSSC said they should last well over 100 years in the ground.

"The good news is that once we've completed that work, you won't likely see WSSC in that area for quite some time," a Commission spokesman said. —LELAND SCHWARTZ

TOWN BABYSITTERS

Renz Johnson, age 13, experience as mother's helper with toddlers and young children. Has had a few babysitting jobs on his own. Call 301-263-1254 (home) or text/call 301-367-3733 (mom's cell)

Ben Malmgren, age 18, experience four summers Norwood camp counselor, more than six years babysitting (safe sitter certified) and eight years pet sitting (some in-home over nights), several Town references. Call 301-648-3664

Hank Malmgren, age 15, experience summer 2016 Norwood counselor-in-training with safe sitter certification expected, five years pet sitting (some in-home over nights), several Town references. Call 301-456-4338

Bram Wilson, age 18, experience babysitting for numerous Glen Echo children of all ages. Call 301-219-2704

Miles Wilson, age 16, experience babysitting for Glen Echo families for 3 years. Call 301-219-1480

Rachel Zeidenberg, age 14, limited experience. Call 240-535-6086

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HAVE YOU HEARD?

The Town's **Christmas trees** will be **picked up** by Waste Management on Mondays in January.

Also, going forward, recycling will be picked up on Mondays along with yard waste. Regular trash pick-up remains on Tuesdays and Fridays. And a reminder that large item pick-up is the last Friday of each month.

.....

Glen Echo "ambassadors" **Zachary, Aaron, Heather and Shannon Kraus** went to Geneva over the Thanksgiving break to nurture friendly relations with Glen Echo expats **Maddox, Nora, Nicole Fraser and Harley Feldbaum**. Rumor has it a good time was had by all. The Feldbaums were gracious hosts as they explored Geneva, including excursions to French markets, the Alps, castles, and the occasional water park. Following their



stay in Geneva, the Krauses continued their delegation to Paris and London.

.....

There are plans in the works for an updating of the **Little Falls library**. A recent fundraising appeal announced that the original "refresh" had been planned for this calendar year but will definitely happen in 2016. The Friends of Little Falls

library will support by contributing to the cost of the renovations, and expanding on what the County is able to provide. New purchases are planned for the Children's Room.

.....

The Town Council has scheduled a **special hearing** regarding **Aaron Hirsch's request for a waiver** of the ordinance which is currently stalling development of 2 Vassar Circle. The hearing will be on January



Renderings of proposed sign: horizontaland vertical

25 at 8 PM. Like last month, the most recent plan and waiver have been sent out for review on the listserv and are also available for review in the Town Hall. The Council has requested written comments to the plan be submitted by January 18.

.....

Montgomery Parks has two **indoor ice rinks**, Cabin John Ice Rink and Wheaton Ice Arena. Both rinks offer an assortment of programs for all ages including lessons, general and special skating sessions, and rental times. Each rink has a warming room, a pro-shop, a snack bar, coin-operated lockers, and skate rental. Skate sharpening for your own skates is also available.

The **Glen Echo Center** is getting a **new sign** to replace the original one, which possibly dates back to the 1970's and still lists Pepperidge Farm and State Farm as occupants. The sign will be built by Concept Unlimited of Columbia, South Carolina, and has to meet numerous Montgomery County signage regulations. The Center's tenants have not yet decided on whether the sign should be vertical or horizontal, but it will be lit at night.

.....

Tired of the increasing traffic during your commute? Dust off your resume and apply for the Managing Director position now hiring at **Adventure Theater**. You could walk to work with your boss, Artistic Director and fellow Glen Echoan **Michael Bobbitt**. You can find the job posting at Idealist.org.

.....

The special thrill of seeing **Santa ride through town on a firetruck** was a little disappointing this year. The truck (and several other emergency vehicles) drove down University and



Former Town clerk Nicole Fraser, with Zachary, Maddox, Nora, Aaron, and Heather Kraus

around both Vassar and Wellesley Circles at 9:45 PM on Friday, December 18, sirens blaring. Said one disappointed Glen Echo mom, "The kids who are excited about seeing Santa had already been in bed for hours." Said another, "Kind of seems like they should just turn off the siren after 8:30 PM." Attempts to get a comment from the Glen Echo Fire Department, which provides this holiday treat, have so far been unsuccessful.

.....

The beautiful **wooden train** at the **Bannockburn Nursery School** has been a cherished part of that neighborhood play-

ground for 25 years. It can be repaired no more, so the school is raising funds to replace it. If you've ever enjoyed an afternoon of imaginative play there with a child or remember it when you were a kid and want to pitch in, you can help Save the Train at bannockburn-nurseryschool.com.



37 Wellesley Circle

Real Estate Report

The only thing to report: The new house at 37 Wellesley Circle is under contract!

THEY SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

- January 12, **Nolan Koonce**, 9
- January 15, **Reed Jensen**, 3
- January 23, **Conrad Hirsch**, 7
- January 30, **Elsa Vincent**, 13

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



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The Echo seeks meticulous, responsible high school student for an **editorial internship**. If interested, please email TheEchoEditor@gmail.com.

Trusted helper. If you need help with cleaning, babysitting, dog walking, driving, French tutoring, or house sitting, please call Denise Noah at 240-421-3997 or email at noah5dns@gmail.com. For a recommendation you can call Holly or Osamu Shimizu at 301-229-3011 or email at hollys579@aol.com

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events



FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, **Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27** 8-10:30 PM, free to Town residents

January 16 1-4 PM, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, music and dance

January 25 8 PM, Town Council special hearing on the 2 Vassar Circle development

Local Events

January 16 10 AM-2 PM, Winter Wonderland Canal Walk, 10K or 5K walk along the towpath, begins at the Carderock recreation area; for details: sugarloafers.org

Glen Echo Park Activities



The National Park Service celebrates its **Centennial Anniversary** in 2016. Look out for events commemorating its hundred years all year long.

The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380

Len Piper's Pinocchio, January 21-February 21

Tiny Tots, select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10AM

LADIES

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 27
8 PM

JULIA WILSON HOSTING
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NIGHT

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Monday - Saturday 8am - 8pm
Sundays 12 Noon - 8pm

X-ray and Lab On Site