



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

In attendance at the Council Meeting on February 8 were Mayor Beers, all four Council Members, Clerk Treasurer Stacy Malmgren, Aaron LaRocca, representative for the National Park Service, and three residents—a significant drop-off from recent meetings.

Glen Echo Park Report

Mr. LaRocca announced that a seasonal employee had been selected and is to be stationed at Glen Echo Park beginning March 20. The Park is also planning to fill several permanent Park guide positions. They would be working on programming for the Clara Barton NHS and would start possibly in late May.

In celebration of the founding of the American Red Cross in 1881, the Park will host two performances of *Clara Barton, Red Cross Angel*. The performances, by Mary Ann Jung, a first person interpreter, will be held at the Bumper Car Pavillion on

May 21 at 12 PM and 2 PM.

The Park, GEPAAC, and the United States Park Police are still working to address two safety concerns that seem to be on the rise in the past two months: car break-ins and speeding through the upper parking lot at Glen Echo Park. The Park is continuing its efforts to implement a speed bump plan to discourage drivers from using the trolley right-of-way as a cut through. GEPAAC will also be proposing a gate system between the lot's entrance and the Irish Inn. The upper lot is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers but is managed by the National Park Service.

The Clara Barton Reha-

bilitation Project continues with the roof replacement scheduled to be completed this spring. During the fire suppression phase of the project, the entrance to the main parking lot, the small CBNHS lot, and areas of the flat lawn will be closed. For the entire project the parking spaces closest to the House will be closed for a construction staging area.

Meanwhile, the Visitor Service Staff is developing interpretive programs to educate the public about the site during the closure.

The need for improvement of the multi-use trail known as the Union Arch Trail was discussed. There are steps that need to be built up and drainage issues that need to be addressed. A community work day, possibly scheduled during National Park Week (April 17-23) was suggested as well as the possibility of using students from the Walt Whitman AP Science Club

to help with the trail. Council Member Matney will contact other civic organizations about helping with the trail.

Mr. LaRocca mentioned that money is now available for more historical signs at the Park and the Clara Barton House and will be checking on the priorities for the signage.

Town Business

The need for a new elevator that can accommodate a wheelchair or a scooter was again on the Council's agenda. The Council will be checking with the Maryland Municipal League for guidance and resources. Council Member Costello will consult with JoAnn Murray, an architect with a specialty in Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, for a ball park price. The Town will be gathering quotes for the elevator and for repainting of the Town Hall.

Council Member Long mentioned that the Town

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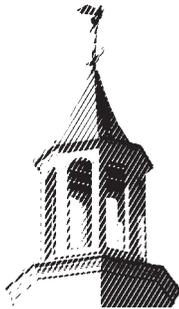
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Next Deadline: March 20, 2016

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.



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Next Town Council Meeting: March 14, 2016, 8 PM

should have a plan of the species, date planted, and placement of the trees that have been planted in the right-of-way to be put in the permanent record.

There were some problems during the blizzard last month with cars parked on the wrong side of University making plowing difficult. There is a Town Ordinance (section 19.24 vehicle control) stating that the Town has the authority to tow if a snow emergency has been declared by the County or the Mayor. Discussion ensued about signage and where to post it, further notification and clarification of the ordinance, as well as a need for a formal agreement with a towing company. During a snow emergency, parking is allowed on the west side of University which receives the most sun. Ms. Costello also mentioned that the street sign at Oxford Road had been knocked down during the blizzard.

The Town approved a donation for 2016 of \$2,000 to Glen Echo Park. This is an increase of \$200 from last year. Mayor Beers stated that this should be a regular item on the Council's December Agenda.

Resident Issues

Angela Hirsch along with Holly Sheldon would like to book the Town Hall for a weekly yoga class for teens. Issues of liability were discussed especially since chil-

dren would be involved. It was decided that if the yoga instructor provides proof of insurance and release of liability to the Town, the classes could start on a trial basis. The Hirsch and Sheldon families would use their allotted free residential rentals during the trial period.

The construction at 6102 Bryn Mawr was discussed. The site has received a County permit, but the Town was not notified and it does not have a Town Permit. An Inspector from Montgomery County will be sent to see if the project is in compliance with set-backs.

Police Report

From January 11 to February 1, off-duty police officers conducted traffic enforcement for the Town. While working during a dance on January 15, Officer Holland observed that approximately one in eight cars violated the stop sign on Oxford. Officer Grybowski was unable to make his shift due to the blizzard. There were nine warnings and four citations issued during a total of four hours at a cost of \$160 to the Town.

Town Expenses

In the month of December, the Town paid \$6,750 to Lee's Tree Service, \$5,200 to Charles Cooley Stonework, and \$4,856 to Knopf & Brown. Expenses for the month of January totaled \$20,429.71 —**DEBI SACKS**

The Town held an official public hearing on February 1 to discuss and vote on a requested waiver to the Town's road construction code 17.1. For the Town, Mayor Beers, the Council, town lawyer Norman Knopf, and town clerk Stacey Malmgren attended in person. Marie LaBaw from the Montgomery County Fire Marshal's office attended via phone. Mr. Aaron Hirsch, the developer, and Jeff Roberts from CAS engineering attended to present the development plans and waiver request details, and approximately 20 residents attended. The meeting was well organized and cordial and lasted nearly two and a half hours.

Mr. Knopf opened the meeting by explaining that the hearing was focused on a waiver to the portion of the road code requiring a subdivider to deed property to the Town that is within 25 feet of the center line of the road. 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 meeting continued with Mr. Hirsch and Mr. Roberts presenting the current development plan and a range of details about the development. This included some financial details re-

PUBLIC HEARING NOTES

garding the relative benefits of various development options including subdivision into four, three, or two properties or development as a single property. Various options for a single property have been explored including use as a church, cultural institution, or an age-restricted community. As many have likely noticed, the property has been on the market for use as a church since September and to date no offers have been received. Likewise, none of the other options have proven to be viable. Mr. Hirsch argued that subdivision into fewer than four properties prevented "all reasonable use of the property"—a clause from the ordinance—by claiming that either the other options were not feasible or would not provide a reasonable return on his investment.

One key aspect of the development is the impact to the current parking situation on Vassar Circle. The topic has been widely discussed on the Town listserv and was repeatedly brought up during the meeting. Central to the current road code, which was passed after Mr. Hirsch's purchase of the property, is the fact that Vassar Circle is currently too narrow for large emergency vehicles to navigate. For years, the current church

parking lot provided some relief to that situation as a way to cut through the circle. Any subdivision of the current property requires the developer to provide sufficient roadway to allow safe passage of these vehicles into, out of, and around the circle. The unfortunate (and likely unanticipated) side effect of this requirement is that up to seven existing parking spaces around the circle may be lost to provide adequate turning radii for large vehicles. During the meeting Ms. LaBaw confirmed that the current road, which is just over 16 feet at its narrowest, is not ideal and that the proposed 28 foot road width "shows an acceptable design for the Fire Marshal's office."

After Mr. Hirsch's presentation both the Council and residents were provided the opportunity to ask questions. Key questions included: How many parking spots would be on each property (answer: three total, one garage spot and two in the driveway); What are the costs associated with the subdivision process and profit margins associated with typical developments; Would drainage problems down Cornell Avenue worsen (answer: probably not, thanks to County codes that manage runoff); Would a sidewalk be installed around the inside

the circle (answer: no); Will new parking signs be installed (answer: yes, but they can be reduced with curb striping); When will the road widening occur (answer: the code requires it at the start of development but a case can be made for doing it at the end). One notable question came from a woman representing the German Lutheran Church wondering how the hearing would affect her interest in buying the property from Mr. Hirsch to use it as a church. The Mayor answered that the Council's decision doesn't affect her direct dealings with Mr. Hirsch.

Following questions for the developer, the Mayor opened the meeting for testimony. This provided residents the opportunity to voice their opposition or support to the proposed waiver. Testimony was heartfelt and well considered with opposition comments centering on the loss of existing parking, increased parking conflicts due to new residents, the charm of the current church and trees on the property, and the fact that this issue represented a big issue for the Town and the Council. One resident provided some support to the plan by pointing out that an increased tax base would be one benefit of the proposed development.

After testimony the official record for the hearing (*continued on page 5*)

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■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist, Rite I (during Lent)	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

Holy Week and Easter Services: Please visit our website for times and liturgies from March 20 through March 27. Special choral music has been selected for this week. Please join us!

Sunday, March 13, 5:00 p.m.
Inscape Chamber Orchestra: "Motion"

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(continued from page 3)
was closed. The Council then spent some time discussing the issue before moving to a final vote request. Council Member Stiglitz provided a summary of the topic, which was generally the position of the rest of the Council. He pointed out that parking space loss would occur with any subdivision plan, that run-off should not get worse due to county codes, and that concerns about trees were outside the purview of the Council. On the specific question of "reasonable use," Mr. Stiglitz believed that the spirit of the ordinance and the original goal to improve road safety is being met. Council Member Long added a historical note to the proceedings by stating that this has been "probably the most significant land use issue to come before the Council." Council Member Matney, Council Member Costello, and Mayor Beers all echoed these thoughts and agreed that safety around Vassar Circle would be improved by accepting the proposed plan. Finally, after several false starts, the Council unanimously voted to approve the waiver request. With approval of the waiver, Mr. Hirsch is now able to resume his subdivision request to Montgomery County Parks and Planning. —BILL VINCENT

Mark Peyton, whose business kept trees trimmed and streets cleared of snow in Glen Echo, died of lung cancer at Casey House before Christmas at the age of 71. Born in the area, Mark left high school to work full-time for his father's tree service. In 1965, he married his childhood girlfriend Myrta and founded his own tree service business. (His son Lee followed the same path, working for Mark while in school but then going out on his own.) After first living in Cabin John Gardens, Mark and Myrta next rented a small farm (earlier rented to Mark's father) from the eminent attorney, Edward Bennett Williams, adjacent to his estate on Bradley Boulevard. In 1979, they moved to Potomac, buying Mark's mother's house on a 6.66 acre lot, though he continued to maintain the Williams' property until he retired, after his cancer diagnosis.

Chevy Chase Section 4 was the first township for which Mark worked, later adding Sections 3 and 5, Martin's Addition, and Glen Echo. He added snow plowing, street cleanup, and leaf removal services to his basic tree work. Glen Echo used all of those services continuously for approximately 35 years. Billing was not Mark's forte, but when the bills were eventually sent to clients, all items were listed at \$1125, no matter the service—his

IN MEMORIAM



Mark Peyton
3/3/1944–12/15/2015

flat charge for a day's labor and equipment. Mark's crew members were very loyal to him. One commuted daily from Pennsylvania to work for him, and another, Jorge from El Salvador, was like a brother to him until he returned home.

Mark loved people. He was very inquisitive and was known as a compelling storyteller. Myrta told *The Echo*, "He was dedicated to his clients and even when he was weak from his treatment, came out to Glen Echo to make sure his crew was doing the job right." He especially loved working with the town managers of "his towns."

Mark's health was always excellent until his diagnosis. Originally a cigarette smoker, he quit in 1996 after one of his brothers died of lung cancer. When handed a cigar once, however, his addiction returned, followed by several unsuccessful efforts to quit. A well-chewed cigar seemed to always be in his mouth. Every year, he vowed to retire before the next spring season, but then in the spring, he was back at work. He detested the idea of being idle. Mayor Beers said, "He was always there for us; I never even had to call. He would do all of this while forgetting to bill us for

(sometimes) years at a time. He clearly wasn't in it just for the money."

Mark's mother lives in Cabin John, very alert at the age of 98, cared for by a full-time nurse. His surviving brother, who has had several strokes, is now in a nursing home. Mark and Myrta marked their 50th wedding anniversary during the end of his illness. The Peytons had three children (two daughters, Marni Holifield and Beth Beane, and a son, Lee) all of whom live nearby, and five grandchildren.

Friends expressed overwhelming appreciation for Mark during his illness, visiting him at home and filling his rooms at the various medical facilities where he was treated. An estimated 350 mourners attended his funeral at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Potomac. Although born a Baptist, Mark's baptism was conducted during his illness by a priest, who was a lifelong friend.

In a touching eulogy, grandson Tanner Holifield called Mark "a 17-year-old in a 70-year-old body ... (who yearned to) play quarterback for the Redskins." He called his "Pap" a "straight up character ... who could have had his own reality TV show. And if you were a good person, you were his friend for life." Myrta recognized his uniqueness, saying "he was never without a friend and people flocked to him." —GLORIA LEVIN



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Insects abound in healthy gardens. They are necessary to keep ecosystems working as they pollinate plants, provide food for birds and other animals, and increase the overall biodiversity of our gardens. Urban and suburban gardens tend to be so focused on neatness and simplicity that an insect hotel provides a fun way to attract and shelter insects while also creating a sculptural element that is appealing and beneficial as well. Insect hotels provide a place to breed, and to stay and rest, including hibernation. They are beneficial to domestic honeybees, bumblebees, and solitary bees, as well as moths, wasps, beetles, lacewings, hover-flies, ladybirds, and earwigs (many of these eat lice and mites that damage plants).

Insect hotels are made

HOLLY IN THE IVY

primarily with recycled materials that can easily be found around the house and garden. Be creative as you consider old wood, drilled wood blocks, bundled twigs, bamboo canes, cones, hollow stems, bark, seed pods, straw, hay, cut grasses, paper, old leaves, stones, shells, clay pots, clay pipes, bricks, broken pottery, etc. Avoid using metal or chemically treated wood.

A structural base with sides and frame for the hotel is needed. Using bricks as the building block is quite simple. Once your base is set, then the sides can go up and your materials should be added with the heaviest going on the lowest level. Prior to construction, pre-roll the paper and leaves,

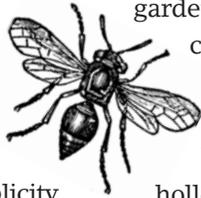
cut hollow reeds, twigs, and bamboo so that construction can move along without distraction. Create many small holes of different sizes in the untreated wood. Native bees like the tiny holes as a place to lay their eggs. They will add pollen and nectar on top and then a layer of clay for protection. Cavities are important for the insects to crawl on, fly into, or to provide a resting place.

Position the hotel where it will get sun to keep it warm under the eave of the house or build the hotel so it has a reliable roof so it will not get wet during winter. Slate is a good roofing material. Dry stonewalls also act as successful insect hotels and

often have the added benefit of providing habitat for chipmunks, frogs, toads, and salamanders. These are not built to be highly specific for certain insects but rather as a way to imaginatively increase the heterogeneity of your space.

Insect hotels tend to be quiet places, so don't expect Grand Central Station type activity but do expect some pleasant surprises. This kind of habitat adds a rich natural feature that supports conservation. At the same time you have created garden art. A large part of the fun is to design the hotel so it is pleasing to the eye and placed where it can be enjoyed as insects discover its existence! —HOLLY SHIMIZU

Interested in an insect hotel workshop with Holly? Email hollys579@aol.com.



INSECT HOTELS—HABITAT AND GARDEN ART COMBINED

These insect hotels were made by Dr. Michael L. Smith: ichthyologist, beekeeper, and gardener.



This log from an insect hotel has very small holes filled in with mud by native bees; these non-stinging bees are good pollinators. An egg is laid in the cavity, pollen and nectar are added for food, and the hole is sealed with leaf parts and mud.



This is a simple insect hotel built with bricks—great for a first time effort. The spaces are filled with bamboo, twigs, and oyster shells.



This more complex insect hotel provides a lovely sculptural element set on a hillside garden. The honeycomb design was created with brick pipe and slate is used as the base and sides.



Here the design blends wood and slate set on a stone base and incorporates oyster shells, bark, twigs, and stones.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Yuang Zhang, a high school student who lives on Wellesley Circle, has been playing classical piano for ten years. He's been in—and won—many competitions at the local, state, and

grand piano to practice on. Using the Glen Echo network, he was connected with **Phyllis Daen** of Harvard Avenue by **Gloria Levin**. Phyllis is also a classical musician with a grand piano



she was happy to allow Yuang to use. Gloria reports there is also a grand piano that can be reserved at the Clara Barton Rec Center if anyone is interested.

.....

international levels. When preparing for two regional competitions in February, Yuang was looking for a

Recent issues of *The Echo* have reported on some local fundraising efforts. The results are in ... The

Bethesda Co-Op in Cabin John saw its membership increase over 50 percent, going from 810 to 1,275 active members, and sales for the month of December were up \$4,000 compared to December 2014. **Bannockburn Nursery School** has been raising funds to replace the wooden train in its playground. More than \$5,000 has been donated, which will cover a significant portion of the cost. The school's efforts will continue in March with its Spring Fever Gala and Silent Auction at the Bannockburn clubhouse on March 19 at 7:30 PM.

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The C&O Canal National Historical Park is seeking

volunteers to join its **Trails & Rails** program. Since May 2012, volunteers have been providing **interpretive programs** onboard Amtrak's Capitol Limited between Cumberland and Washington. They tell passengers about the history of the C&O Canal, the railroad, the Civil War, nearby towns, and natural features along the route. Volunteers work in teams of two, boarding an inbound train in Cumberland at 9 AM and returning on an outbound train at 7:30 PM. Teams ride the train Fridays and Saturdays during the summer. The park service will provide interpretive and safety training March 12 from 9 AM to 5 PM

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March 5 **Aaron Kraus**, 9
 March 5 **Zachary Kraus**, 9
 March 11 **Greta Hirsch**, 5

at 10 Howard Street, Cumberland, MD. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. If you are interested, please contact Park Ranger Rita Knox at the Cumberland Visitor Center by calling 301-722-8226, or via email at rita_knox@nps.gov.

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As **Tax Day** approaches, remember to fill out your town name. It's the way the State of Maryland "knows" to route the proper share of tax money to the town from your state taxes. It appears on one's income tax return (Maryland Form 502) as "City, Town or Taxing Area" in a box, under "Maryland County," to the right of one's name and address.

.....

Registration is open for **Encore Rocks Glen Echo**, a rock and roll chorus for adults age 55 and over. The ten-week program starts March 2 with weekly 90-minute rehearsals held at Glen Echo Park and culminates in a free concert on May 5 at the Church of the Epiphany in DC. So if you're feeling groovy and think hits from Elvis, Frankie Valli, Led Zeppelin, Simon and Garfunkel and the 50's rockers are right on, register

by calling the Washington Conservatory at 301-320-2770 or go online to www.washingtonconservatory.org. The cost of \$110 isn't completely square.



Newcomers **Vanessa and Kasey Sax** recently found some old photos in their basement at 7300 University, formerly the home of Jim Ford and Beth Rockwell. The photos (above) show the house in the early twenties after an addition of a second bay (on the left). The original house was built in 1903. Harry Houghton, pictured with his wife and children in 1924, was the son of the original owners.

Real Estate Report
 37 Wellesley Circle, listed at \$1,498,000, is under contract, now due to close March 15.

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays,
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 8-10:30 PM, free to Town residents



Local Events

March 12 9 AM-12:30 PM, Bannockburn Nursery School rummage sale at the Bannockburn Clubhouse; item donations accepted March 9, 9:30 AM-1 PM, March 10 and 11, 9:30 AM-8:30 PM

March 12 9 AM, one-mile Fun Run starting at Bannockburn Elementary School

March 23 7 PM, Whitman High School's talent show

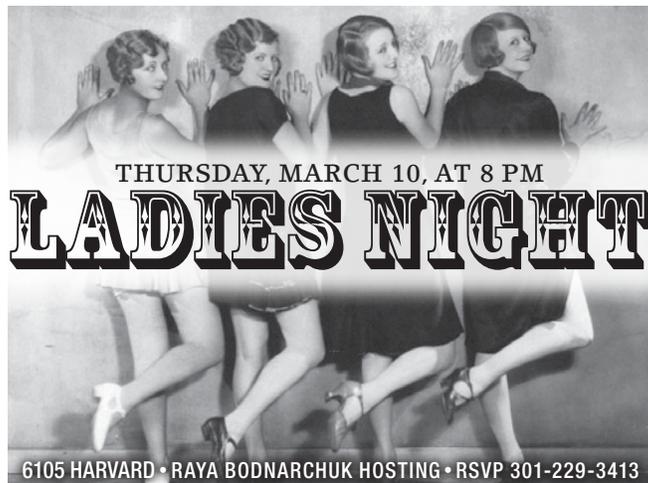
Glen Echo Park Activities



The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
Beauty and the Beast, through April 10
Tiny Tots, select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10AM

Adventure Theater MTC

www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270
James and the Giant Peach, through April 4



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