



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Mayor Beers and Council Members Matney, Long, and Costello were in attendance at the Town Council meeting on March 14, 2016.

Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron LaRocca the National Park Service (NPS) representative submitted a written report since he did not attend the Council meeting. There were only a few updates to the February report. First, on February 24, NPS representatives attended a meeting with citizens of Cabin John Gardens regarding traffic issues that impact their community. Some within Cabin John would like access to the Clara Barton Parkway closed during rush hour. The NPS is committed to working with the community, Congressman Van Hollen's representatives, and Montgomery County Police to address issues but

will not make any decision without understanding how that decision will impact the road network.

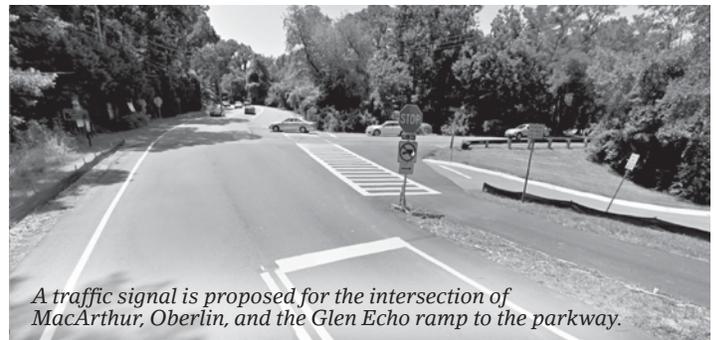
Work associated with the fire suppression system at Clara Barton House on the National Historic Site will be postponed. NPS still has to determine the impact of the construction on Oxford Road. At last month's Town Council meeting, it was stated that the work would begin in spring 2016, once the roof work was completed. The plan was that entrances to the main parking lot and the grassy areas, as well as to the Clara Barton parking area, would be closed during construction. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

NPS is recruiting and hiring ten temporary interpretive rangers and four permanent park guides.

Traffic Signal for MacArthur

Montgomery County planning specialist Kyle K. Liang presented three concept plans for a traffic signal to be placed on MacArthur Boulevard at Oberlin Drive. The traffic light is being proposed because of the current and anticipated increases in traffic on the road. Most of the increased traffic can be attributed to the new structures to house government employees on Sangamore Road and the

six-story parking garage there that will have more than 1,500 spaces. Ken Hartman from the Bethesda-Chevy Chase regional center was in attendance as was Harry Pfohl, who represents the Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda. Council Members noted that this was the first time they had heard of a plan for traffic signals on MacArthur and they were surprised by the plans. Mr. Liang pointed out that the plans were conceptual and preliminary. One plan suggests closing off Oberlin Avenue. Nancy Long pointed out that there was a study four years ago that was widely and negatively



A traffic signal is proposed for the intersection of MacArthur, Oberlin, and the Glen Echo ramp to the parkway.

THE ECHO

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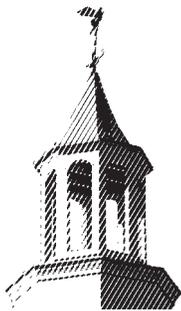
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Next Deadline: April 20, 2016

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: April 11, 2016, 8 PM

commented on and this seems to be an extension of that thinking. Citizens in town have long been concerned with the effect of additional commercial development on the Town perimeters.

Discussion about the plans, although they are preliminary, followed. One plan considers taking away part of the newly constructed bike path. Other plans consider making Oberlin Avenue a one-way street. Questions about sequencing of the traffic light were considered premature by the County representatives. All parties agreed that the Town representatives would be notified of future actions that may impact Glen Echo. There will be follow-up meetings and the Mayor and Council will be notified prior to those meetings.

Backyard Chickens

An extensive discussion about the animal control ordinance that prohibits the ownership of backyard chickens ensued. It appears

that one resident—Blair Anderson—has chickens, and the neighbor next door—Raya Bodnarchuk—objects since it is not allowed by law in town. Ms. Bodnarchuk explained that she was not against chickens but was concerned about the possibility that rats were attracted by the chickens and their food.



Mr. Anderson said he had no knowledge of the animal ordinance that precluded chicken ownership in town. The discussion then veered toward the difficulty of knowing what the law is if ordinances are not available to the public. The Mayor said she is reluctant to put the ordinances on the website since some are outdated and others are missing altogether. There was an effort, about two years ago, to review and update all the

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ordinances but the issue of gas for the Town took precedence, recalled Mr. Matney. Nevertheless, the Mayor said, all residents have to obey the Town laws.

Discussion about chicken-keeping broke down into two categories. First is the question of existing chickens, which violates the ordinances of Glen Echo. When there is a citizen complaint, it has to be addressed, said the Mayor. The second is a possible change to an ordinance which the Mayor described as a long process. Mr. Anderson was nonplussed about actions he would have to take. The Mayor suggested the chickens could be sent to a farm.

Ms. Costello suggested that the government and Mr. Anderson seek to resolve the issue of the existing chickens, and the Mayor indicated she would discuss a possible amendment to the ordinance with the Town Attorney. In the event of a proposed ordinance change, more citizens could weigh in

on the issue and the sense of the community would be considered. The Mayor herself does not favor chickens but residents at the meeting pointed out that Montgomery County now allows for the animals with restrictions. It was noted that the restrictions might not work here in Glen Echo because of our lot sizes and proximity to our neighbors.

Town Business

The Council voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance to allow Comcast to continue to operate in Glen Echo. Montgomery County negotiated a franchise agreement renewal that was approved by the Montgomery County Council on February 9. As part of that agreement, most of the municipalities, including Glen Echo, have to enact an ordinance that allows Comcast to operate within its geographic borders. Montgomery County manages the terms of the franchise agreement as it has in the past.

The Council discussed the

need to authorize temporary repairs to the elevator at Town Hall, although the elevator has to be replaced. It will take a year to obtain a replacement and install the equipment and will cost between \$90,000 and \$140,000 but must be done



The Town Hall elevator, or as the sign says, "wheelchair lift"

to comply with safety regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the meantime, repairs could keep the elevator working, and we would be in compliance with Federal law. There was no motion on the matter.

Because of the late hour, the Mayor asked that the meeting be adjourned. Any items not discussed will be held over till next month.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mark Peyton was a good and loyal friend of our Town. He and his crew were reliable, good-natured, helpful, and hard-working. Mark had a quick and ready wit, a sense of humor, natural intelligence, and sensitivity to the concerns of others. He had a kindness and generosity of spirit. A twinkling eye would foretell the approach of words you would want to hear. While we will always miss Mark, we will honor his memory as we look forward to working with his son, Lee. —NANCY LONG

Town Expenses

In February, the Town paid \$4,108 to Lee's Tree Service, \$4,048 to Waste Management of Maryland, and \$2,000 to GEPPAC. Total expenses paid were \$14,301. —PHYLLIS FORDHAM

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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

Sunday, April 17, 5:00 p.m.
Organist Janet Yieh in Concert

Sunday, May 1, 5:00 p.m.
Eya and Divisio in Concert: "Zehyr"

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Since Montgomery County passed the Healthy Lawns bill, several Glen Echo residents have asked me to write about a healthier way to kill weeds. Say goodbye to Round Up or other toxic chemicals that pose a risk for humans, animals, and the environment.

Personally, I have found vinegar to be a highly effective way to eradicate weeds. In a clean sprayer, I mix white vinegar with a little bit of liquid soap to act as a surfactant (it helps the mixture adhere to the leaves). Be careful though as you must avoid spraying your garden plants. For the best results, I recommend that you spray when temperatures are warm (above 65 degrees Fahrenheit). Weeds should die within 48 hours, although some may need a second application, especially if it rains shortly after the original spraying. There are vinegar products on the market that can be purchased at garden centers. These products are generally made with horticultural vinegar and orange or clove oils. I have found that it is not necessary to use an industrial strength version.

If an entire area or garden bed is in need of weed control, take a piece of pond liner or a tarp, place it over the area, and hold it down with bricks or stones on the edges and corners. Pond liner (45-mil EPDM) will smother and cook the

HOLLY IN THE IVY



Dandelions can be a sign that your soil needs calcium.



weeds fairly quickly. A standard tarp or black plastic is also effective as long as it holds in heat and does not let sunlight through. After several days (or weeks depending on the season) the weeds should be dead or at least very weakened.

In warmer weather, death happens more quickly because the weeds are fried. If some weeds are still green when the tarp is removed, then use your vinegar spray as the final step.

If your goal is to prevent weed seeds from germinating, natural products made from corn gluten have shown moderate effectiveness as pre-emergent weed controllers. Corn gluten is a

byproduct of the cornmeal-milling process and is high in nitrogen. Timing is the key to success. Corn gluten products should be applied in early spring, around the time that forsythia is blooming. Corn gluten prevents seeds from germinating so don't expect other seeds to grow wherever it is used. Products containing corn gluten are available at most garden centers.

Weeds are messengers telling us about our soil. If one particular weed seems to persist, it indicates what your soil needs. If you want nice grass, then you need to listen to the messengers. If it is clover, remember that clover is not a weed; that perception is a gimmick of the chemical companies. Clover (*Trifolium repens*) was once an important ingredient in the grass seed mixtures because it has the benefit of being a legume and fixes nitrogen in the soil. If you

have clover in your lawn, it says that your soil is in need of nitrogen. If it is dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) that plague you, then your soil is looking for calcium and you most likely have a low pH, so the soil would benefit from the addition of calcium limestone. Dandelions will not grow when the soil has calcium. Plantains (*Plantago major*) will thrive in compacted soils because they have a bushy root that grows outward breaking up clay soils. If nut sedge is a problem, it is an indicator of too much moisture. The area should be kept dryer.

Weed seeds need light to germinate, so if they are covered with mulch or soil they will not grow. For lawns, it is beneficial to apply one half inch of compost over the lawn which creates a dark blanket covering the soil. It must be "finished" compost to insure that it is not going to add weed seeds. I recommend that you try a sample by placing some of your mulch in a small cup with light and warmth. Add water to see what grows.

The important message here is that you don't need to use toxic chemicals in your garden and that there are healthy alternatives that work! —HOLLY SHIMIZU



For further reading I recommend: *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*, by Paul Tukey, Storey Publishing, 2007

It's finally our turn! Here are the basics: **Maryland's Primary Election is April 26.** Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM, and if you are in line by 8 PM, you will get to vote. Glen Echo's polling place is Bannockburn Elementary School. Glen Echo is in Congressional District 8; Legislative District 16; Council District 1; Board of Education District 3. For any specific questions, go to www.777vote.org. And for our newcomers, the deadline to register is April 5. You can do it online: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>

What about early voting?

GET PRIMED

Early voting for the primary election will occur from April 14 to April 21, 10 AM to 8 PM. Glen Echo's closest polling place for early voting is Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center at 4301 Willow Lane in Chevy Chase, Maryland, but there are locations in Silver Spring and Wheaton as well. For a complete list go to www.777vote.org. Early voting results are tallied on election night, just like votes cast on election day. If you vote early, you may not vote by mail or on election day.

Want to do more than just vote? The Montgomery

County Board of Elections needs election judges! To find out more about becoming an election judge, select a link below for more information. The County is particularly looking for multilingual speakers and those registered as Independents and Republicans. To become a judge go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections.

It requires: one half day training in April; one meeting the night before (4 hours max); 6 AM to 10 PM on site on election day. Details on becoming an election judge can be found

here: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/electionjudge/overview.html#qualifications

The role of an election worker is to ensure fair and accessible elections for all voters and to protect the integrity of the election process. In accordance with Federal and State law, they must perform all of the duties assigned by the local Board of Elections and perform their duties faithfully, diligently, and without partiality or prejudice. An election worker who serves in the polling place is a very important part of the electoral process. This individual is the point of contact between the Board of

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Technically, you can keep cool in the middle of summer without joining a local pool. Some combination of air conditioning, popsicles, and garden hoses gets the job done, even on the hottest July day. But the luxury of having a lovely, social and refreshing pool nearby is undeniable.

For newcomers to the area, the pools can be a little bit mysterious. They are tucked into neighborhood streets and don't advertise. Indeed, the boards of the two most popular pools didn't even respond to *The Echo's* inquiries about membership. They're private clubs, which

sounds fancy—I always feel a need to apologize and explain that they aren't that kind of private club. They offer both summer memberships and permanent memberships, have loose geographic boundaries, and have waiting lists of various lengths. All have a baby pool, a shallower recreation pool, and a competition pool with lap lanes and diving boards.

Bannockburn Pool includes Glen Echo in its boundaries, though it's not really clear whether that provides any real advan-



This used to be our local swimming hole: the Crystal Pool at Glen Echo Park

tage to Glen Echoans who want to join. It's a lovely spot surrounded by woodlands at the bottom of Laverock Lane. My swimmer, who has had the opportunity to compare a lot of pools' underwa-

ter vistas, reports that it has the clearest water around. There are grills in the back—it's great to bring dinner and cook while the kids splash around. There is no snack bar, but the ice cream

Elections and the general public during voting hours. He/She is responsible for administering the actual voting procedures in each precinct and making sure that the voters have a positive voting experience. Without these individuals, it would be impossible to conduct successful elections. Election judges are paid a stipend. Student volunteers are also being recruited for assistance.

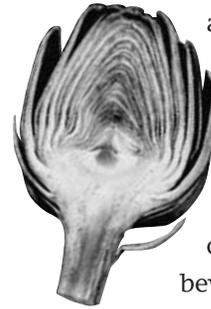
This information was brought to *The Echo* by our neighbor Bonnie Whyte, who is a Montgomery County closing judge. If you want to talk to her about what it's like, email whytehs@gmail.com.

THE DISH

I've started transitioning my cooking away from the soups and stews of the winter months by turning to the vegetables that announce the seasonal change, and nothing says spring to me like artichokes. After reading the cookbook how-tos for years, **roasted baby artichokes** still struck me as very difficult to prepare, and when it comes to cooking, I like to keep it simple. Here's the news flash: They are, in fact, quite easy to prepare and 100 percent worth it. Crispy, delicious, special, Spring!

Mise en place: cutting

board, sharp knife, a bowl of cold water and the juice of one or two lemons. Reserve those lemon halves. You remove so many of the artichokes' outer leaves, you don't even need to wash them. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Chop off as much of the stem of the baby artichokes as needed and start pulling leaves—you remove between 2/3 and 3/4 of them—until the leaves are faintly green. Cut in half lengthwise, rub with one of the lemon halves (to keep the artichokes from browning), and drop into the lemon water.



Once all of the artichokes are prepped and the oven is ready, toss the artichokes with good olive oil, salt, and pepper, and lay cut-side down on a jelly roll pan. Bake for 20 minutes and then flip—re-oil if they are looking too dry—back for another 10 minutes.

And that's it.

Great with any pasta dish—a fresh red sauce!—any meat dish—lamb chops!—any preferred beverage. Well actually, critics whine that it's hard to pair wine with artichokes. Champagne, bourbon, and milk, of all things, complement artichokes deliciously. —EMILY PARSONS

truck is a reliable presence and there are usually food trucks on Friday nights.

Merrimack Pool is a bit further up the hill, tucked among Bannockburn neighborhood streets where Pyle Road and Callender Drive dead end. It has a small playground and, rumor has it, will have a snack bar this summer. Bannockburn and Merrimack offer reciprocity on weekdays, so if you are a member of one pool, you can join friends at the other one without paying a guest fee. This is particularly nice for extended playdates that meander around the neighborhood over the course of the day.

Palisades Pool is across the one-lane bridge off Seven Locks Road, marked only by a comically understated wooden sign. It's a bit bigger than the others, and has the great advantage of being adjacent to Seven Locks Park. It has tennis courts, a café, and a slide. It offers an informal summer camp for members in July and August. Katie Ledecy, the Olympic phenom, was a longtime member of the Palisades Porpoises swim team. By all accounts, it's fantastic. So fantastic, that the wait list runs about eight years. Parents of small children: plan

ahead for the teen years!

The **Bethesda Pool**, operated by Montgomery County Parks, offers great facilities at a lower price. A family pass for the summer is about a quarter of what you'd pay for the other options here, and you can also pay as you go, paying between \$4 and \$6 to enter. The downsides: It tends to be crowded. I also noted greater vigilance by life guards, who were tooting whistles at fleet-footed children on the deck and over-eager slide users almost constantly.

All the pools have swim and dive teams that compete in the Montgomery County

leagues. Summer swimming is my favorite team sport. Teams compete within their own age groups, but there's great, multi-age comradery. The practices and meets provide a little bit of structure on lazy summer days, and the season is pleasantly compact, ending in mid-July. You can have your Final Four and Superbowl: I'll watch the final seconds of the graduated relay, with a bunch of seven-year-olds frantically splashing the final length of the pool while the rest of the team (and their parents) go absolutely crazy. —ANGELA HIRSCH
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A proposal to build new housing units adjacent to the **Little Falls Library** was eliminated from the Westbard Sector Plan by the County Council Planning Board on March 14, a move the full Council is expected to approve, since the Board's vote was unanimous. The temporary closure of the Little Falls branch for renovations and upgrading scheduled for March has been postponed to the end of May.

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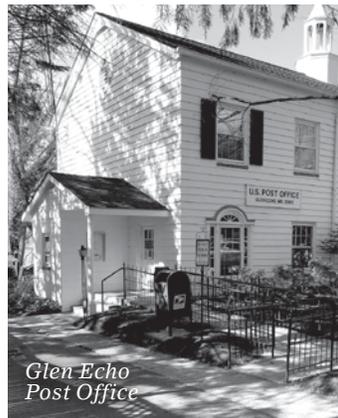
Gail Werner, our webmaster, is moving on. That means the Town is in need of someone to do website updates, including uploading *The Echo* each month. You can find archives from the last ten years of publication at **glenecho.org**. The Town's list of ordinances online is not up to date, but the Town Council is discussing next steps to get that list current. At press time, the Town was close to selecting a new webmaster, so we look forward to an updated website.

.....

MedGen, the new urgent care facility at the Glen Echo Center, has adjusted its hours of operation a bit in response to demand. On Fridays and Saturdays, it will close two hours earlier at 6 PM, and on Sundays, it will open one hour earlier at 11 AM and close two hours earlier at 6 PM. Another big development is that Med-Gen is now offering Occu-

HAVE YOU HEARD?

pational Medicine services. The staff is certified to do "DOT" physicals and drug screen collections. DOT certification is the highest standard of training for anyone doing drug screening and occupational physicals (like pre-employment physicals).



Glen Echo Post Office

Big News: The U.S. Postal Service has signed a new five-year lease with the Town, so **our Post Office** is secure until 2021. A spokesman for the USPS told *The Echo* that it is not an issue that the Cabin John Post Office is so nearby, given the area's population density.

.....

On April 9, **Tom Helf's** band **Cravin' Dogs** will be performing in a tribute to Randy Newman at the Barns of Wolf Trap. The Dogs will be playing "Baltimore" and "Little Criminals," and may join some of the other 50 participating musicians in other songs from Newman's extensive canon. This show will sell out, so buy tickets in advance at wolftrap.org.

Will your kid be enrolled in a Maryland college the Spring of 2017? If so, here's a competition, sponsored by the County Executive, for \$2,000 scholarships for those enrolled in a Maryland high school or college now: www.montgomeryhispanicgala.org/scholarship. You do not need to be Hispanic to apply for the scholarship. The application deadline is May 31.

.....

The new operator of the Glen Echo Cafe space next to the playground has been announced: It's **Praline Bakery**. That may sound familiar since they have a location at the Sangamore shopping center. This location will be aptly called **Praline at Glen Echo Park** and will serve baked goods as well as sandwiches and more, including a kid-friendly menu. The planned opening date is April 30, Family Day at the Park.



Future home of Praline at Glen Echo Park

Have a plant? Leave a plant. On Saturday, April 30, **Carol Barton** will be putting out the **farm stand table** on

University Avenue near Princeton Avenue and inviting neighbors to bring and trade plants they've divided and would like to share. It will be very informal, so even if you don't have plants to bring, come check out the offerings. Carol reports that she and Henry expect to extract their bees' honey soon and they have started planting rhubarb and peas for their informal farm stand.



Summer produce will be here before you know it!

.....

Recruitment is underway for **Leadership Montgomery's** four main programs—Youth, Emerging (age 25–35), Core and Senior Leaders (age 55+). Applications are accepted until April 15 for Youth Leadership Montgomery; April 21 is the application deadline for the other three. YLM is a leadership training program for students who will, as of fall 2016, be entering grades 9 through 12 in Montgomery County high schools (public or independent). The program starts with a summer residential workshop (July 24–30), at Washington College in Chestertown, MD, followed by eight meetings in Rockville devoted to civic engagement during fall 2016. The Senior program includes behind the scenes explorations of County venues

HAVE YOU HEARD?

(continued from page 9)

and participation in a group civic project. Graduates of all programs then join a network of 2,100 alumni for a multitude of educational, charitable, and social events. For more information on these programs, go to www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org. Glen Echo graduates of LM include Michael Bobbitt, Gloria Levin, Phyllis Daen, and Michael Beers.

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Do you enjoy the Seven Locks region of the Canal? Many in Glen Echo take frequent advantage of the Canal for exercise, relaxation, and reflection. The Facebook Group **Friends of Seven Locks** offers area

enthusiasts the opportunity to share their passion for the C&O Canal, especially as it winds its way from Locks 8 to 14. Members of the group are encouraged to share photos, stories, comments, suggestions, and news of events related to the C&O Canal National Park, especially as it relates to the maintenance, restoration, and preservation of the Seven Locks segment. If interested, join the group on Facebook or contact Warren E. Goodell at 248-51-3581 or weg@wegoodell.net.

.....

Adventure Theatre has appointed **Lauren Juanita Hines** as its new managing director, to be sharing a co-



This photo from the Glen Echo Park Photo Archive shows Gwendolyn Brit among a group of 1960 protesters.

leadership role with artistic director and Glen Echoan Michael Bobbitt. Ms. Hines has more than 15 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, including work with the Washington National



Hines

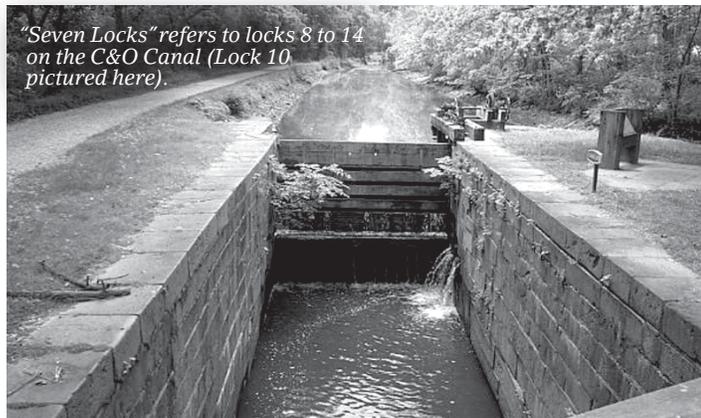
Opera, Columbus Dance Theatre, and Opera Columbus. "I am extremely

excited to partner with Lauren to preserve and expand on the terrific 64-year-old success of ATMTTC," Bobbitt said. "Lauren's experience and personal investment in the quality of theater and theater education for area children set her apart."



The new portrait

Gwendolyn Brit, who protested segregation at Glen Echo, has been honored with a portrait in the Maryland Senate. Brit represented Prince George's County in the state Senate from 2003 until her death in 2008. In 1960, at the age of 18, she led a sit-in protest on



"Seven Locks" refers to locks 8 to 14 on the C&O Canal (Lock 10 pictured here).



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Only Four Weeks



UNTIL THE CAROUSEL REOPENS!



Baltzley Castle

the carousel of segregated Glen Echo Park and was arrested. The background of her State House portrait includes the historic entrance to Glen Echo.

Real Estate Report

37 Wellesley Circle has sold for \$1,498,000. In nearby real estate news, the Baltzley Castle at 5415 Mohican Road is on the

market for \$4,449,000. Brothers Edwin and Edward Baltzley built the stone mansion overlooking the Potomac between 1888 and 1890. It was bought in 2010 and dramatically updated after years of disrepair. Now's the time to take a tour, including an event April 23 to raise funds for Glen Echo Park (See Glen Echo Park Activities).

They say it's your Birthday!

April 12, **Durke Anderson**, 6
 April 19, **Adeline Bohi**, 9
 April 20, **Colby Epanchin**, 5
 April 27, **Max White**, 5

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**. If interested, please email TheEchoEditor@gmail.com.

We will be moving from Glen Echo in early May and have **some furniture** (ikea dressers and bookshelves, another bookshelf, a pingpong table, utility shelving, etc. that won't be making the trip. If you might be interested in taking any of this stuff please call me (Howard Gruenspecht) at 202-253-8976. Thanks.

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays,
April 6, 13, 20, 23, 27
 8-10:30 PM, free to Town residents



April 3 1 PM, C&O Canal Association board meeting, open to the public

Local Events

April 17 5 PM, Organist Janet Yieh in concert, Church of the Redeemer



Glen Echo Park Activities

April 23 1-5 PM, Fundraiser tours of the Charles and Baltzley castles benefitting Glen Echo Park, \$75

April 30 11 AM- 4 PM, Family Day and the opening of the Dentzel Carousel for its 96th season

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

Beauty and the Beast, through April 10

Emperor's Nightingale, April 22-May 30

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 5

Sleeping Beauty, April 5-May 29

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, AT 5 PM
LADIES NIGHT
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