



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Mayor Beers and three of the four Council Members attended the July 11 Town Council Meeting. Absent was Council Member Stiglitz. Typical for a summer meeting, it was fairly brief and lightly attended.

Glen Echo Park Report

National Park Service representative Aaron LaRocca reported that the roof work on the Clara Barton House should be completed this month, on schedule. The next phase is the fire suppression work, for which the Park Service is in the permitting process.

There is a tentative plan to have the Student Conservation Association do some trail work this summer on the Union Arch Trail, from the one-lane bridge to the canal.

On a volunteer day in June at Glen Echo Park, sixty employees from Deloitte Consulting transformed three ponds at the aquarium

into native plant gardens. The ponds were considered a breeding ground for mosquitos.

Town Maintenance

The deadline (June 30) has passed to cut back shrubbery that overhangs Town sidewalks. Mayor Beers and the landscaper will survey the Town streets in mid-July and note overhanging shrubbery, greenery, trees, and flowers that obstruct the sidewalks and arrange to have them cut back.

The Town streets will be swept August 3 and 4, and the repaving job on the post office parking lot will take place August 4 and 5. After the repaving, the exit to the lot will be marked with a Do

Not Enter sign on both sides of the exit, and EXIT ONLY with an arrow pointing out will be painted on the pavement. There is concern on the part of the Council that drivers are entering through the exit, making a hazardous situation.

The recycling bins, which are available to new residents at Town Hall, are missing hardware to attach the wheels. Town resident Renny Springuel volunteered to purchase the hardware and deliver it to residents in need.

Goldsboro Development

Council Member Long attended a meeting held by the owner of the property next to the Exxon, which is zoned R-90 and will be a townhouse development. The owner would also like to have part of the property used for seasonal sales, which usually means things

like Christmas trees or a farm stand.

A Town Flag?

At August's Council Meeting, the Council will discuss the issue of a Town flag, sparked by the proposal of a green and white,



sycamore leaf flag by two residents. Mayor Beers says that discussion will be held on whether there should be a Town flag at all, and if so, how the Town should proceed on the approval of a flag. Council Member Costello raised the possibility of a contest with design submissions from residents.

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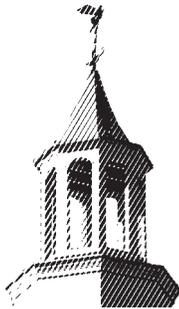
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Next Deadline: August 20, 2016

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: August 8, 2016, 8 PM

Police Report

From June 6 to July 3, off-duty police officers issued 19 warnings and 4 citations for failure to stop at the stop sign on Oxford Road. There was one repeat offender. The Town paid \$360 for this service.

Town Expenses

In June, the Town paid \$4,158 to Waste Management of Maryland, \$3,207 to Stanley Asphalt to repave the Town Hall parking lot, and \$1,258 to Chapel Valley Landscaping. —JULIA WILSON

TRAFFIC LIGHT, CONT.

A July 22 meeting at Town Hall with Vanu Newmani, the newly hired Director of Traffic Engineering and Operations, County Department of Transportation (DOT), evolved into a wide-ranging discussion of the Town's long-standing but ignored complaints about traffic. The meeting was called to respond to an email from Mayor Debbie Beers to County Councilman Roger Berliner, in which she complained about the DOT's dismissal of an earlier Town suggestion that the planned installation of a traffic light at the intersection of MacArthur Blvd. and the

Clara Barton Parkway ramp be made temporary until it can be determined that the signal improves, rather than worsens, traffic backups.

Berliner had referred her complaint to Al Roshdieh, Director of the DOT, who replied with a lengthy recitation of the background problem, DOT's studies, communications with Glen Echo, and final recommendations. (Included was the contention that the size of the workforce at the new intelligence campus facility on Sangamore Road will not increase over the prior agency but that on-site parking has been expanded.) Ken Hartman,



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our area's Regional Services Director, not only set up and attended the meeting but also, on the prior day, shared with the Mayor the background chain of emails among County employees.

All parties have agreed that the stacking up of traffic on MacArthur Blvd. and abutting roadways results in long waits and safety issues—and not only at rush hours. DOT videos have shown, however, that the backups on the Parkway occur during evening, not morning, rush hours. The outcome of the meeting was a more rational and clear explanation of the DOT's decision compared to earlier meetings. Mr. Newmani stated that "since no new roads will be built in the County" the County must, for its down-county urbanization initiative, remove impediments to traffic movement.

DOT's reluctance to erect a temporary traffic signal is based on "driver expectations"—minimizing changes in expected behaviors by drivers once a habit has been established. Newmani felt "fairly confident" that traffic control measures, to be triggered by DOT computers in Rockville, will "as much as possible" calibrate for local conditions. The difference in tone of the meeting, compared to earlier ones, was owed to Newmani's prior preparation for the meet-

ing and his willingness to listen and learn from Town residents. Town attendees (Mayor Beers, Council Member Long, Renny and Edie Springuel, and Gloria Levin) noted several prior misunderstandings and misstatements by DOT personnel, and the Mayor observed that Glen Echo had not been invited to participate in the broadly based citizen group convened in 2012 to review traffic issues associated with the redevelopment of the intelligence campus.

DOT recently concluded that a traffic signal alone would not remedy the traffic back-up problem. A newly added plan will construct a north-bound left-turn lane at the new traffic signal, onto the Parkway ramp, outbound for the Beltway. This additional lane would require widening MacArthur Blvd. for approximately 200 feet. The land may be appropriated via right-of-way proceedings with the Corps of Engineers, from the east side grassy palisade. This triggered a discussion of options, such as adding flexi-posts, for protecting the wide section of the bike path on the other side of MacArthur.

A separate traffic signal will be installed for vehicles departing Oberlin Avenue, turning green when a sensor detects a car waiting to exit onto MacArthur. The main traffic signal can be

set during non-rush hours (mostly overnight) for a blinking red light, an "all way stop—a common traffic control practice."

Milking the rare opportunity of facing a thoughtful, responsive DOT official, attendees brought up several other long-unaddressed traffic problems. Most important was a request to enhance (e.g., adding blinking LED lights) the signage of the pedestrian crosswalk at Princeton and MacArthur, noting that cars rarely stop for waiting pe-



destrians. Newmani promised to investigate possible solutions including flashing lights, better signage, and pavement markings. Other concerns raised were the difficulty of turning left when exiting Glen Echo Park's upper parking lot, stacked traffic at Goldsboro, and large clusters of bicyclists on weekends.

Also discussed were problems related to the one-lane bridge. (Until the late 70s, the bridge had two lanes. When the walkway was constructed, the vehicle lane was narrowed to one

lane, and the traffic signals at either end were added.)

The County is initiating an educational campaign for bicyclists, which could include a reminder to obey the signs to dismount on the bridge's walkway.

Upon learning that Newmani recently left a position at the State Highway Administration, attendees requested that he encourage his prior colleagues to approve installation of traffic controls at the Pyle crossing onto River Road (a state road)—the location

of a tragic accident this winter. And he agreed to relay this concern! Newmani impressed attendees even further by requesting the Springuels accompany him to the Princeton cross-

walk, noting that on-site observation is superior to written reports or computer simulations. The Springuels added the Oxford crossing to the tour. He was able to observe in situ our unique traffic circumstances. (I am reminded of the many times our Town has met with experts, few of whom had made the effort to visit the actual site on which they had opined.)

Pending is a formal vote of the Town Council to authorize continued two-way traffic flow on Oberlin. —GLORIA LEVIN

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New neighbors, Jason and Michelle Belinkie, are natives of this area. Michelle attended West Springfield High School in Virginia. Jason not only grew up in Bethesda but many times visited his Pyle and Whitman classmate and close friend, Ben Gruenspecht, at his 6006 Princeton Avenue home. Jason has good memories of the Town, including football games played with his friends at the park. When the couple married, Jason had been living in a townhouse in Bethesda for ten years, but the couple wanted “our own house.”

They house-hunted around this area for 1 ½ years, but especially hoped for a house in Glen Echo to come on the market because of the Town’s well-known neighborliness and its proximity to water and the Canal, where they run and kayak. The location was also convenient to Jason’s work and to Michelle’s family. Ben Gruenspecht had earlier mentioned, vaguely, that his parents, Howard and Susan, were thinking of moving. The

NEW TO TOWN

Belinkies learned in January of this year that the Gruenspecht house would be on the market in March. The sale was accomplished with a handshake, and the papers were signed without brokers.

The couple met through Jason’s workplace when Michelle was representing the National Campaign to Stop Violence. They dated for three years and married in October 2012, at a Prince Frederick, Virginia, winery—“a day before Hurricane Sandy struck.” Michelle, with a BA in communication studies from Virginia Tech, also holds a masters degree in public administration from George Mason University. She worked at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration but is now a stay-at-home mom with Siena, their 2 ½ year old daughter. The baby’s name, a town in Tuscany, was inspired by the beauty of Italy, the country of Michelle’s heritage. Michelle is a passionate runner, a certi-

fied coach who is actively involved in runners’ organizations. Along with Jason, she is co-founder of the MoCo Track Club and serves on the Board of Directors of Hope for Henry, for which she is a lead organizer of its annual Mother’s Day 5K that starts and ends at Whitman.



Jason, Siena, and Michelle

Jason holds two full-time jobs, both associated with athletics. He is the head coach of the track and cross country teams at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School and also is Chief Operating Officer of Athletes for Hope (AFH), an organization he joined in 2006 when it first opened. AFH is located in downtown Bethesda, where

Jason oversees the engagement of over 3,000 athletes in charitable works, involving strategic partnerships with multiple corporations and foundations. He serves on nonprofit boards and has won several leadership awards and honors—both local and national—all related to athletics and fitness. Jason is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School and holds a masters from Johns Hopkins in counseling. Siena’s academics are pursued, half-time, 3 days a week, at a Chevy Chase preschool.

The Belinkies delayed their move-in for the completion of some work on their new house but are now fully installed. In the interim, their neighbors on Princeton were ringing their doorbell to welcome them, with cookies, wine, and offers of help, “even more than we expected.” They met other neighbors at the Town’s annual picnic and are now fully prepared with playdates and a list of potential babysitters.

—GLORIA LEVIN



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LET'S GET PHYSICAL

With national park land nearly surrounding us, we Glen Echoans are perfectly positioned to celebrate the National Park Service's 100th birthday this month.

I'd probably have my Glen Echo passport revoked if I didn't start with the park right here in town. Glen Echo Park's summer concert series continues on Thursday nights through August, and a carousel ride makes any visit feel like a celebration. Glen Echo is part of the larger George Washington Memorial Parkway, which encompasses a huge number of sites along both sides of the Potomac. Try a hike along the Potomac Heritage Trail at Turkey Run on the Virginia side—see if you can spot your house across the gorge.

Shenandoah National Park extends 100 miles through the heart of Virginia. Many of its best hikes follow waterfalls down from the famed Skyline Drive. The water offers a cool respite



Assateague National Seashore

from the summer heat, but don't forget that you'll need to hike back up afterwards! Perennial favorite White Oak Canyon is a seven-mile round trip that offers plenty of spots to soak tired feet. Overall Run Falls, a six-mile hike, features the park's highest waterfall, at 93 feet.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail runs more than 2,000 miles from Georgia to Maine, so there is no shortage of options for a day hike. Try heading north from the trailhead in Linden, Virginia. The trail passes through Sky Meadows state park, and when you return, you can refresh with a glass of wine at nearby Linden Vineyards.

I've never been a big fan of battlefield tours, but after a bit

of research, I can't wait to go to the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md. Adults can hike through the battlefields, earbuds in, and listen to podcasts that bring to life the bloody history behind the peaceful surroundings. Families visiting Antietam—or dozens of other parks in the area—can download brochures from the Kids in Parks program, an NPS partner. They are packed with activity ideas, from bird watching to doing exercises that mimic the movement of the local wildlife. Visit the NPS' Antietam web page for more information on these and other interpretive services.

Assateague National Seashore is a favorite of horse lovers and campers. The

place isn't for the faint of heart: The horses are notoriously greedy, digging into camp gear and any food that's not locked away in a vehicle. And the horses are beautiful, unlike the mosquitoes for which the park is also well known. If you're prepared, though, you'll be rewarded with beautiful, natural seashore that feels a million miles away from the hubbub of nearby Ocean City.

These are barely a handful of the parks we can enjoy within easy driving—or walking—distance. You can marvel at the beauty of parks further afield at a new 3D film, playing now at the IMAX theater at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. *National Parks Adventure* is narrated by Robert Redford and takes you to Yosemite, Yellowstone, the Everglades, the Redwoods, Arches, and Canyonlands, in air-conditioned comfort. Not a bad way to celebrate a birthday! —ANGELA HIRSCH
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One of the great joys of gardening is

watching hummingbirds dart from flower to flower in search of nectar.

Their energetic movements provide live entertainment and since they possess spatial memories, the same birds will tend to come back to the same place. In our area, the ruby-throated hummingbirds are the common visitor to our gardens. They are recognizable by a long straight bill; males have a metallic ruby-red throat, females have a white throat; and both have an emerald green vest.

Since they have no sense of smell, they must find their food by sight and they know to expect nectar from colored blossoms. Their tongues are twice as long as their bills. The plants providing nectar have evolved along with the hummingbirds and they tend to be red in color, tubular or trumpet shaped to match the long bill, rich in nectar, blooming during the day, and lacking any landing pad—this adaptation eliminates competition from other birds that require landing pads for obtaining nectar.

As the hummingbird extracts nectar from the flower tube, pollen sticks on its bill and feathers. Thus, as they travel to different flowers of the same species, they fertilize the plant so that seeds develop. In addition to nectar and sap, hummingbirds eat



insects, such as gnats, spiders, mosquitoes, and aphids. The

consumption of insects provides necessary fats and proteins that are important during nesting season as they ensure essential nutrients for healthy hatchlings.

This diminutive bird has huge energy needs. Many hummingbirds consume half their total weight in sugar every day. Hummingbirds tend to be territorial. They protect their food source by staking out an area of nectar-rich flowering plants and they will defend their source intensely by dive-bombing or even stabbing rivals with their beaks.

Feeders are an effective way to attract hummingbirds to your garden. You must clean the feeder with hot soapy water at least twice per week during the hot season and once per week in cooler weather. Otherwise, the water becomes cloudy and is apt to ferment and produce toxic alcohol and in addition, could cause the birds to contract a fungus.

To make the sugar water in a saucepan, simply mix four cups of water with one cup of sugar, bring to a boil and stir occasionally. It is important to make the sugar water correctly or the birds may get cavities in their beaks or even become fat and unhealthy.

HOLLY IN THE IVY

Hummingbirds love a water feature. The best types are a mister, gently moving water, or a shallow water container (1½ inches deep—if deeper than that, add some gravel or stones). Water is unnecessary in winter since their migration to Central America generally occurs in October with a return in April.

Based on my experience over the years, the best plants for attracting hummingbirds are:



Red flowered agastaches love sun, most act as short-lived perennials, flowers get 2 to 3 feet tall, bloom most of the summer. (*Agastache 'Ava,' Agastache 'Red Happiness,' Agastache mexicana 'Sangria'*)



Scarlet sages love sun, are not usually hardy although they do reseed, bloom for a long period, grow to around two feet tall. (*Salvia coccinea 'Lady in Red'* has deep red flowers, *Salvia coccinea*

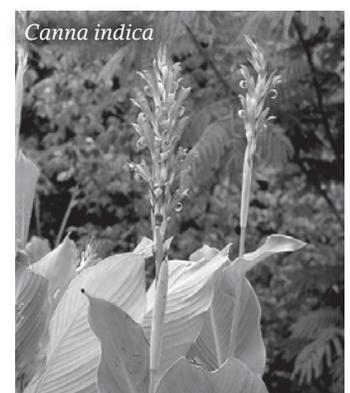
'Coral Nymph' has lovely coral colored flowers.)



Trumpet honeysuckle, a native, vining honeysuckle blooms almost all summer with reddish/orange/pink flowers. (*Lonicera sempervirens 'Magnifica,'* I highly recommend this cultivar for long blooming and great performance.)



Cypress vine is an annual vine that has stunning red flowers in late summer that are a hummingbird favorite. (*Ipomoea quamoclit*, a charming climber)



Canna, a sun loving tender perennial that gets to 3 feet tall, has bold green leaves. (*Canna indica* is my favorite species of canna for hummingbirds; it has orange-red flowers.) —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**



Much of the Town turned out for the **Annual Summer Picnic** which took place on July 10. The food from California Tortilla was delicious, the dessert table offered a bounty of homemade baked goods and fruit, and there was always a line for the water slide. Is it just us or are the children outnumbering the adults these days?

THE DISH



Ever since Sal's Italian Kitchen opened up in the Cabin John shopping center, I've been craving **arancini**, the Italian fried rice balls. I rarely go to Italian restaurants because I prefer to cook the cuisine at home and, frankly, I usually find them disappointing. I worked at a singular Italian restaurant in San Francisco long ago, and it set my expectations high. Too high for this newcomer, unfortunately. The arancini at Sal's didn't transcend the humble descriptor of "fried rice balls."

I tasted mostly fried with a hint of unseasoned rice. The smoked mozzarella hiding in the middle couldn't be detected and the marinara drizzled about was



A fabled Italian restaurant of yore

one-note: sweet. I tried some of the sandwiches at Sal's as well, and though the caprese and Italian ingredients were tasty, I couldn't get past the bread, which read grocery store baguette, which means too much bread to balance the fillings. It's not hard to understand why Fish Taco is always packed, and Sal's is always empty. But since I feel bad giving a local spot a pan, I'll add that the pour

on the wine was stunning.

The good news is that if you are looking for a terrific sandwich, including a flawless caprese, you need look no further than our own Praline at Glen Echo Park. I was a little skeptical about pre-made sandwiches, but they are fresh and chilly—perfect for these hot summer days. I can't wait to head back for another and a glass of wine. Being a bakery, Praline also has wonderful pastries. It truly is a boon to our neighborhood, and one that we

should all support. (There are coupons available at Town Hall for residents!)

As for my arancini craving, a friend told me they

are easy enough to make. Just throw together some risotto (oh, just an hour of active cooking time), chill it, roll out rounds, put a little smoked mozzarella in the center, roll them into balls, bread them, fry them. Easy?! My friend, you see, is a chef. Which is why I'll probably just wait until the next time I find myself in an Italian restaurant, which, sadly, could be years. —EMILY PARSONS

HAVE YOU HEARD?



The farm garden

Henry Barrow and Carol Barton's farm

garden and Curt Wahl's front yard are both bursting with squash, zucchini, kale, peppers, and tomatoes, which they'll be putting out on the mini farm stand on University Avenue periodically. They don't use any pesticides or chemicals on the produce, so it's all basically organic.

Please support this effort because it's a shame for good produce to go to waste. Carol will continue to notify everyone on the mini farm

stand mailing list when the farm stand is out. Payment is by the honor system. If you want to be added to the list, email Carol at cbarton@mindspring.com Says Carol, "Thank you, neighbors, for supporting our efforts!"

To welcome former Town Clerk Nicole Frasier

and her kids, Maddox and Nora Feldbaum, back to Town, Gloria Levin organized a little party at the Town Hall July 24. About twenty residents came to visit their old friends, who have been living in Switzerland for the past two years. With their return date uncertain, it



Nicole (left) and neighbors

Maddox takes the podium

turns out the Feldbaum/Frasiers miss us as much as we miss them. Addressing the party's attendees, Maddox declared: "I know you think I'm crazy for not liking Switzerland, but a million Lake (continued on page 10)

HAVE YOU HEARD?

(continued from page 9)

Genevas couldn't match one of our Minnehahas."

Speaking of old friends, *The Echo* received a letter from Susan Welchman, who lived up on Rannoch Road, but loved Glen Echo so much, she still receives this newsletter at her home in Maine. She writes of the June issue:

"The inclusion of Leland's terrific report on the 7-Eleven, the image of Carol Barton's plant swap, the mention of Raya Bodnarchuk's nomination of the Sycamore for town tree, Blaire's chickens, people's home improvements, the clever TV screen shot [of Peter Zeidenburg], the going's on list—virtually every section has good info and a visual.

Now I know what and how my friends are doing."

For several days in July, the address glenecho.org gave a "suspended" message. It turns out our web host changed names, so when the latest invoice arrived at Town Hall, it didn't get paid. All

set now, and our site name is paid through 2020 and set to automatically renew.

Martha Morris of Wellesley Circle has been appointed to the GEPPAC Board. This is the **Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture**, which handles park programming. Martha has served as senior management at the American History Museum for the Smithsonian and teaches Museum Management at GW.

As reported in the July issue, **Debbie Lange** of Wellesley Circle married **Paul Levine** on June 26. It was a small wedding in



Debbie Lange made her own dress for her June wedding.

Please contact TheEchoEditor@gmail.com IF: you would like extra copies of the most recent *Echo*; you have children under the age of 14, who would like to see their names in print in our birthday listing; you have interest in becoming a reporter for *The Echo*. This job entails just an hour or two of your time to attend a Town Council meeting and another hour or two to write up your report of what happened. It's a great way to learn more about the Town business and to contribute to your community. You also get an invite to the *Echo* holiday party! Finally, keep those animal stories coming, especially encounters with *live* animals. All of the entries for this month would require the creation of a new obituary section—kind of a downer!

Shepherdstown, West Virginia, with their nine grandchildren offering the marriage blessings. Says Debbie, "It was wonderful bringing our two families together, although our children have

been friends since junior high." After the wedding, the couple did a driving tour of New England.

Yuang Zhang, of Wellesley Circle, won first place in the MD/VA/DC/DE/NC region's Water Cube Cup, a competition of singing Chinese songs for youths on June 11. At the end of July, he will travel to Beijing to receive training from some famous professional coaches provided by the competition organizer first, and then compete with others singers from around the world.



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A new yoga studio has opened in the former Radio Shack space at the Westbard Shopping Center. **Sweetbay Yoga** offers classes for adults and youth ages 9 to 17, and plans to expand to classes for even younger kids starting in the fall. For more information, see sweetbayyoga.com.

.....

After a long recovery from a serious car accident in January, our newspaper delivery man **Agung Suchahyo** will soon be back on the job. Right now, he's filling in for vacationing

carriers, but he'll return full time in September.

.....

Bethesda Metro Area Village, an organization helping seniors to age in place, and part of a movement written about in *The Echo* by **Gloria Levin**, is seeking an executive director. It is a part-time position with room to grow. More information can be found at bmav.clubexpress.com

Real Estate Report

The rental at 21 Wellesley Circle for \$3,400/month remains the only listing.

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Baldwin **upright piano** for sale; appraised at \$750; make an offer. Available for pick up on Cornell Ave. Contact Claire Kelly at c_l_kelly@yahoo.com

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GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance
Wednesdays, **August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**
8-10:30 PM, free to Town residents



Local Events

August 12 8 PM, Movie on the Lawn at Clara Barton Center presents *Pan*

Glen Echo Park Events

Dentzel Carousel \$1.25 a ride, through August: Weds.-Fri. 10 AM-2 PM; Sat.-Sun. 12-6 PM (Carousel also open during concerts and other events.)

August 4 8:30 PM, Movies By Moonlight: *The Help*

August 5 6-8 PM, Art Walk in the Park, open studios and artist demonstrations

Summer Concert Series 7:30 PM

Free Thursdays concerts in the Bumper Car Pavillion

August 4 Triffilio Tango Trio

August 11 Brian Gaffney with Elle Hope, Folk, Irish

August 18 Dave Chappell & Friends, featuring Anthony Pirog, Rock guitar

August 25 Montgomery County College Jazz Ensemble, 15-piece band, Jazz and Big Band

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

Peter and the Wolf through August 28

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

Adventure Theater MTC

www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270

Jumanji through August 28

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, AT 8 PM
LADIES NIGHT

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O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

■ **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.

■ **UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

Mondays-through Labor Day
Labyrinth Walks, 7:00 p.m. With live or recorded music
Music at Redeemer 2016-17 Series begins in September.

Sunday Service recordings are available on our website!
www.redeemberbethesda.org

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