

# The Echo

The Town of  
**GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND**  
Chartered, 1904



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November 2012

## Washington Gas and Park Partnership are Major Topics

By Catherine Hathaway

### *Bringing Gas to Glen Echo*

At the October 8 Town Council Meeting, Washington Gas (WG) representatives discussed costs and requirements to bring natural gas to the Town. At present, gas transport lines are not part of the Town infrastructure. The issue was considered years ago but not enough residents wanted the option or they considered the expense too high. Recent high oil heat and electric charges have sparked new interest in bringing gas lines into Town and allowing residents the natural gas option (see article on page 9).

Earlier this year, residents were given a survey to gauge interest in a natural gas option. Some are interested in the option to save families' money and reduce the town's carbon footprint. Of the 93 surveyed, there were 59 responses. Of the 59 responses, 37 were interested and 12 were unsure. Washington Gas presented their proposed

plans to bring gas from the other side of MacArthur Boulevard to Glen Echo if the Town decides to move forward with the project. The cost for the pipes to be laid throughout Glen Echo is based upon how many homes are committed to changing over their furnaces and other appliances to gas as well as the locations of those homes. If all 93 homes in Glen Echo committed to change just their furnaces, the cost to the town would be between \$30,500 and \$33,500. The thought behind this project is that the up-front cost for the pipes to be laid would be paid with town funds and then each resident would be responsible for paying for their appliances and the cost to lay pipe from the meter to their furnace. WG representatives told the group that if Glen Echo decides to move forward with this project, it would take about 8-12 months for them to get the permit for the work. Once the permit is received they could begin work and lay pipes at a rate of about 200 feet per day (about a street a day). Cost for street repair is roughly accounted for in the pricing. The Project Manager

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# THE ECHO

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**Next Town Council Meeting:**  
**November 12, 2012, at 8pm**

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Waste Management	\$4,475.83
Dennis Alexander*	\$2,756.00
Chapel Valley	\$2,148.33
*Town CPA	

CONTINUED from page 1

from WG said that due to the narrow roads in Glen Echo, directional drilling would be used when possible but the road might also need to be broken. Residents Catherine and Steve Hathaway volunteered to be the point of contact for the research. They will be working to provide more information to town residents and provide and collect Load Letters to all so that they can be submitted as a group back to Washington Gas. Once that is completed, final pricing can then be reviewed by the Town Council. In the meantime, more information about the savings and costs associated with natural gas can be found at [www.washingtongasliving.com](http://www.washingtongasliving.com).

**Glen Echo Park Association Partnership Seeks Change to Town's Voting Status**

Michael Burack spoke on behalf of Glen Echo Park Association Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) and the changes they are considering making to the by-laws of their association. Currently, the Board of Directors includes members who represent the Park (largest group) and four members who represent the interests of the City Executive, the County Council, The Town of Glen Echo, and Bannockburn Civic Association. The two designees (one for each neighborhood) representing Glen Echo and Bannockburn have never been subject to term limits and each have a vote. However, the designee from the County Council and that from the City Executive are ex officio (unable to vote) and subject to term limits. Mr. Burack explained that the board is considering amending the by-laws to remove the ability for the designees of the towns to vote, to be more in line with the rights of the other two designees. Mr. Burack said he did not think the change would make a difference as they have never had a vote that wasn't a strong consensus. Nancy Long commented that there are differences between our interest and Bannockburn's interest in the park. She also reminded the group that each year The Town appropriates dollars to the park. A motion was made to oppose the change to the

by-laws. However, Mayor Beers said she did not think it would make a big change in what GEPPAC decides to do.

**Park Entrance Changes on Oxford Road**

During the Glen Echo Park Report, it was stated that the plans to change the separate entrance road out of the Park have been resubmitted for review as they were entered incorrectly in the Park's funding plan system in 2010. The change would fund the reconfiguration of the current exit and make it accommodate both ingress and egress to the Park.

**Town Hall Use and Upcoming Maintenance Contract**

Nancy Long reported that the Halloween Party and Holiday Party (scheduled for December 15) will be upcoming events at the Town Hall and that she has seen more use of the Town Hall by residents lately.

The discussion to do an RFP for Town landscaping services was revisited. Mayor Beers said the process would need to be completed by February as the contract would need to be effective in March and to keep in mind the maintenance work that is included in our requirements. If anyone has a company in mind that they would

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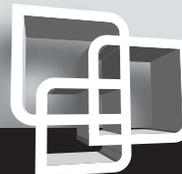


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like to suggest be included in the RFP, please let the Council know. The Council plans to go to three or more companies, including the current company.

**Glen Echo Park Report**

Aaron LaRocca of NPS provided the monthly Glen Echo Park Site report to the Town Council at their October meeting. He announced that Donna Cuttone, Supervisory Park Ranger of Arlington House, will be Acting Site Manager for Glen Echo Park/Clara Barton National Historic Site through the end of 2012. The superintendent will make an announcement about how the vacancy will be filled after Ms. Cuttone finishes her detail.

**Montgomery County Bike Path**

The October 4 meeting between Montgomery County and NPS was cancelled. The County will present the EA (environmental assessment) to the National Park Service by October 15 and a meeting will be scheduled shortly thereafter to discuss the EA. The Public meeting and comment period is scheduled to follow, during the period of late 2012 to early 2013.

**Shooting Gallery Exhibit**

Work continues on the shooting gallery exhibit. Split Rock Studios is working with the Park to create interpretive panels. These panels will demonstrate the history of the Park, specifically, the history of the Shooting Gallery. Panels should be installed by the end of the year. An interactive shooting gallery exhibit is being planned. Online visitors would "shoot" at targets. A "hit" would then reveal interpretive text or an oral history quote about the park.

**Then and Now**

NPS barricaded the Town to keep visitors from parking on Town streets. Visitation was not as high as expected.

**Real Estate Report**

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## Welcome, Newcomers

By Carlotta Anderson

A renowned painter and his wife, a professor of museum studies, have just joined the Glen Echo community at 26 Wellesley Circle and say they feel as if they are “back home.” The reason for that sentiment is that for the past 25-30 years they have made this area one of their favorite recreation spots.

Joe Shannon and Martha Morris Shannon both grew up in the Metropolitan DC area and still own their longtime home in Dickerson, Md. They love the Potomac River and the Canal and have spent a lot of time hiking, jogging, biking, fishing and even painting around Locks 7 and 8.

Joe is especially familiar with Glen Echo Park, where he danced as a teenager, and his father was a crooner for dance bands there in the '40s and early '50s. Martha used to visit there as a child and especially remembers the bumper cars and carousel.

Martha has graduate degrees from George Washington University and the University of Maryland in art history and business. She worked at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and then the Smithsonian Museum of American History where she served as deputy director. She is now Associate Professor of Museum Studies at George Washington University. It was at the Corcoran that she met Joe, who studied and taught there and had an exhibition of his paintings on view at the time. Since then, he has had many one-man shows at galleries in New York, D.C., and elsewhere. He was an exhibit designer at the Museum of Natural History and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden where he also did curatorial work. He was

a teacher at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and wrote art criticism for papers and magazines.

Joe and Martha ran four miles a day back in the '70s and '80s. Now Joe arises daily at 5:30 a.m. and paints until noon. His style is Realistic/Surrealistic. These days, he and Martha work out regularly and take long walks with their beloved dogs.

They have four grown children and four grandchildren. One of their daughters, Sarah, sings with a Seattle band called the “Not-Its” with music aimed at children.

Welcome to Glen Echo, a place with which you are already very familiar.

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## Fire Hydrant

By Wendy Martens

On September 26 a rather large “pop” was heard at the corner of University and Harvard Avenues, after which the fire hydrant fell forward and large quantities of water started flowing at a rapid pace down Harvard toward the Parkway.

Evidently the fire hydrant had become disconnected from its 6-inch pipe, causing water to remove soil and mulch from Wendy Martens’s yard, flooding the street and reportedly leaking into Phyllis Daen’s basement and destroying a part of her lawn.

WSSC was incredibly prompt about turning the water off that day and followed up the next day by attaching a new fire hydrant (shown below). There was a 3-foot hole by the fire hydrant from the force of the water and it was rumored that the cascading water and debris caused an accident on the Parkway.



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# AROUND TOWN

Mayor **Debbie Beers** was named in the Washington Post supplement *Washington D.C.'s & Baltimore's Top Rated Lawyers*. In the 2012 edition, Mayor Beers was named in the Trusts and Estates category.

The Town Yard Sale was a success thanks to **Raya Bodnarchuk, Carol Barton, and Forest Yang**. Town residents appreciate the effort they put forth to manage the October event. It wouldn't have happened without them.

**Jane Stevenson** did it again with the completion and distribution of the 2012 *Jane's Directory*, listing town residents and their contact information. There are so many new residents that preparation of the directory was more challenging than usual.

**Debbie Lange's** publishing company, New Publishing Partners ([www.npp-publishing.com](http://www.npp-publishing.com)), has recently published *Three Cities in the Making of a Rabbi*, a memoir by Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, Rabbi Emeritus of Washington Hebrew Congregation, founding chairman of the Foundation for Jewish Studies and a leader in interfaith initiatives.

Kevin Branch, Superintendent of the C&O Canal will hold an information session to update citizens on the **Happenings along the Canal** at Town Hall on November 15, 2012 at 7pm. Topics will include completion of repairs at Old Angler's. Residents are invited to bring questions or concerns to discuss with the Superintendent.

### Police Report

Police officers monitored Oxford Road 3 times in September on Saturday mornings for a total 10 hours. There were 10 citations, and 40 warnings issued. The Town paid \$400 for this service.

## GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

**The Following Events Are Free to  
All Town Residents**

English Country Dance  
every Wednesday, 8 pm-10:30 pm

Town Council Meeting  
November 12, 8 pm

C&O Canal Information Meeting  
Kevin Branch. November 15, 7 pm



## November 2012 at REDEEMER

■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Adult Forum & Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
Professional Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Church School for All Ages	10:30 a.m.

■ UPCOMING EVENTS

*Sunday, November 4, at 5:00 p.m.*  
Solemn Requiem Mass with Orchestra (Gabriel Fauré)

*Sunday, December 2, at 5:00 p.m.*  
A Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent

*Monday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.*  
Christmas Eve Worship: Festal Eucharist of the Nativity

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*LADIES OF GLEN ECHO  
Ladies Night  
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**Opinion**

**On The Topic of Traffic**

**By Phyllis Fordham**

There is little doubt that Glen Echo residents are concerned about traffic and its impact on our safety, sanity, and serenity.

Recently, The Echo published a resident's letter regarding Oxford Road stop sign scofflaws. Others have weighed in verbally on the issue. Glen Echo Park is considering reconfiguring the entrance and exit into the Park at Oxford Road. Police officers are giving tickets. Traffic is growing each year. The goal of the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture is to increase the use of the Park.

All of this indicates that more trouble is ahead. Some of the suggested solutions are incongruous; others, merely ineffective. They include:

- Ignore the entire issue. (Won't happen.)
- Install a stop sign camera. (State permission is needed.)
- Install a flashing light on Oxford Road. (This is a dreadful idea.)
- Re-engineer the speed bump. (It might help; drivers, focused on the bump, often slow down before it and then continue on as if a sign did not exist.)
- Stop traffic from entering the Park on lower Oxford and instead use the current exit to accommodate traffic in and out of the parking lot. (Not good for me or those who live closer to MacArthur Blvd. Traffic will slow down for the turn, creating backups to MacArthur Blvd.)
- Remove the stop sign on University so that traffic will not have to stop. (I'm not sure I understand this rationale, which is based on the premise that if people ignore signs, we might as well do away with them. This remedy would create more problems. Drivers attempting to turn onto Oxford will face the same problems they do now. More traffic will exit Town from Princeton, an already busy street.)

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## Natural Gas/To Be or Not to Be/“Load Letters”

By Diana Hudson-Taylor

### Residents Must Return “Load Letters

The Washington Gas (WG) report to the Town Council on bringing natural gas to Glen Echo has created questions of economic feasibility . First, more information is needed from residents so that Washington Gas can provide a realistic estimate of the municipal cost if the Town opts to bring in those conduit lines. The Glen Echo conversion route would allow gas to flow under MacArthur Blvd. from Bannockburn Dr. to Cornell, around Wellesley and Vassar Circles and through the center of town on University Ave. The process could take a year. The Council has named residents Catherine and Steve Hathaway to act as liaisons between Washington Gas and residents in order to collect the needed additional information.

### Cost Savings

Residents have expressed an interest in natural gas primarily because of cost savings and carbon reduction. At the current time, natural gas costs for average households can be compared to oil or electric heat (estimated annual fuel costs of \$661 for gas; \$1783, oil; \$786, heat pump; \$1843, propane). Energy analysts predict that gas and oil prices will continue to widen dramatically over the next ten years. Local oil provider Petro, quotes an oil price \$1 /gal more than last year at the same time.

### Possible Household Expenditures for Conversion

Washington Gas estimates the cost of new appliances to be \$7-8,000 for a furnace, \$500 for a hot water heater, and \$1-2,000 for installation costs to bring gas from the household meter to the furnace or appliance. Propane conversions with installation might run \$100-200/appliance. Unfortunately, at this time there are no rebates for gas conversion.

### Determining Actual Town Cost

Once the Town knows which houses want gas and which furnaces or hot water heaters they would

change, Washington Gas can give a reliable cost estimate to the Town Council for laying the supply lines. That cost will depend on the percentage of residents who would convert and the location of the households desiring conversion. For instance, even if 70% of households wanted gas but no one on Oxford Road opted for the conversion, pipes would not be laid the length of Oxford. The total expense would be reduced by that factor. If all of the residents answering the “load letter” questions opt for gas heat, the cost to lay the pipes would be about \$30,500 to \$33,500. If no one intended to convert to gas heat the cost would be \$253,000 to lay the pipes and the gas option may not be feasible.

### Fill in the “Load Letter”

Washington Gas needs an accurate estimate of houses that want gas so they can give the Town (and individuals) a better estimate of cost. To do this they ask people to return the “load letter” which has been distributed through residents Catherine and Steve Hathaway. The “load letter” asks what gas equipment or appliances a house would be willing and ready to convert when the gas lines are brought in. The “load letter” is NOT an obligation of money, only a statement of intent.

### Next Steps

- Households should have received a “load letter” from the Hathaways. Fill out your Washington Gas “load letter” and return it to Catherine Hathaway, 6004 BrynMawr, as soon as possible.
- Washington Gas will then provide a more accurate estimate of expense to the Town based on the “load letter” information.
- The Council will then decide what if any subsidy it would provide for the laying of the street supply lines.
- If the natural gas option is chosen by the Town, residents may opt to negotiate favorable bulk prices for new appliances or conversions.



## Glen Echo Park Activities

### **The Puppet Co.**

*Carnival of the Animals*  
September 21-October 7  
*Beauty and the Beast*  
October 7-November 16

### *Tiny Tots*

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### **Adventure Theatre MTC**

*A Little House Christmas*  
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### **Photoworks**

*2011 Photo Slam Winners*  
Oct. 19-November 12, Sat and Sun 1-4 pm  
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or call 301-634-2273

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- Put in more signs and speed bumps. (We did that. Look what it's done for us.)

There is really just one good solution to the problem. The Park needs a direct entrance from MacArthur Boulevard into the parking lot. Town residents would be spared the growing impact of its traffic and can settle down to accept the other annoyances of mid-night music, miscreants roaming the park at night and overflow traffic on our streets during big events.

While the Park brings benefits to our residents, there is also a downside to the facility. The Park should take steps to alleviate the distress to its neighbors, and the County should join in any project that will allow the Park and the Town to operate within their constituent's respective interests. Each is looking to enhance its environment. A direct entrance from MacArthur would do that.

### **More Traffic Woes**

Speaking of traffic, roads, and expenditures, where did anyone ever get the idea to build a road with two new bike lanes on MacArthur? This plan will result in a narrowing of the vehicular lanes and no significant improvement to the hot spots identified by the Town, that is, ingress and egress into each Town street from MacArthur. Pedestrian safety on MacArthur, which is already problematic, especially

where a Ride-On stop attracts apprehensive waiting passengers, will not be improved. As one Town resident stated at a recent Town Council meeting, not one of the Town's stated concerns has been addressed by this ill-conceived, so-called road improvement.

Traffic on Town streets, meanwhile, continues to increase and annoy. Cars and trucks rushing up and down Princeton Avenue give one pause—or no pause—at their rush! We pity the Harvard residents who put up with Post Office traffic and weekly Town Hall users. Those on Wellesley and Vassar Circles fear expansion of activities at the former Baptist Church.

We know only one certainty. Every action creates a reaction. We need to think carefully before encouraging greater use of our facilities and our rights of way. Any time actions are taken that will create more traffic, we need to take steps to alleviate those unwanted effects. When the Park wants to increase its traffic, it must do more to insulate the Town from the nuisance created. For the Town, there are times when it may need to reject new business and favor peace and quiet over the expansion of events. Creating revenue may be good; preserving a safe and peaceful environment is critical.

