



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ NOVEMBER 2018

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The Mayor and all four Council Members attended the October 9 Council meeting. The Town Manager Nicole Ventura was out of town, so resident Julia Wilson took the minutes. Consultant to the Mayor Jean Sperling, Town lawyer Ron Bolt, and about ten residents were also in attendance.

Town Permitting

The variance hearing for 7315 University Avenue has been set for November 7. The story of this property, covered in the last two issues of *The Echo*, has taken a strange turn. As renters Erin Duffy and Bill Corbett were moving out, the owner/

contractor came in, walled in the screened porch, and expanded the kitchen within the span of a week-end without getting any of the proper permitting or necessary inspections. Once alerted to this, the County chose to do nothing, so the Mayor stepped in with a

stop-work order. The owner has since requested a variance from the County, but here's the absurd part: He is claiming the expansion was necessary due to a disability he suffers from—vertigo. The house, it seems, was too narrow and therefore dangerous for him. But, as the Council assumes, due to the rental listing posted for the property, this owner does not plan to live in the house.

At this point, the Council needed to decide what action it wanted to take. Options include asking for more time, opposing the variance, or making Town support contingent on concessions from the developer. The Council members as

LEAF PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Oct 24, 31
Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28
Dec. 5, 12

Leaves should be raked to the curb.



well as residents didn't seem keen to roll over on this one citing safety concerns, the undesirability of having this type of scofflaw owning in Town, and setting a precedent for the benefits of flouting the law. Ron Bolt explained what to expect at the variance hearing—a big resident turnout could sway the outcome—and what the owner's council would need to argue—a unique property (shallow) with a hardship (vertigo). In response to a direct question about cost, Mr. Bolt also described the



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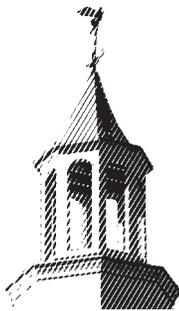
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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Next Town Council Meeting: Nov. 12, 2018, 7:30 PM

two approaches to fighting them in court if it comes to that: a barebones path (\$5k) including brief and argument or a deluxe path (\$30k) including expert witnesses and aerial photos. He also suggested that a land-use lawyer might be a better (and less expensive) fit for the Town in this instance.

From the beginning, Council Member Stiglitz has found the owner's arguments and behavior "completely incredible." The other Members agreed. Council Member Long said we should take action against him and set a precedent for not allowing this kind of business in Town. (It should be noted this contractor owns another rental property here.) The Mayor agreed we needed to protect our residents. Council Member Spealman asked about the budget for such expenses, but the Council felt this was a case that must be fought whatever the cost.

In the end, the Council voted to have Mr. Bolt request more time to prepare for the variance hearing, and if a continuance is not granted, then to make it clear that the Town will be opposing the variance. The Council planned another meeting in October with Mr. Bolt to discuss strategy and look at a list of land-use attorneys.

The Council gave the okay for the rebuilding of a damaged deck at 20 Wellesley Circle and for tree

removal at 7309 University Avenue due to damage to the home's foundation.

Town Business

Lee's Tree Service, which has done the Town's leaf pick up and snow removal for the past few years will not be providing these services this year. The Town had bids in, and the Council selected Hughes Landscaping to do the leaf collection Wednesdays October 24 through December 12. How that goes will determine our snow removal contract.

The Town archiving project is now underway. Sarah Hedlund from the County's Historical Society signed a contract and began work.



She is creating an inventory of all the files in Town Hall and a list of needed supplies. In the future, residents will be asked if they have any documents that should be included. Volunteers may also be needed. Ms. Hedlund will attend some future Town Council meetings to report on her progress. Until then, updates will come from resident Martha Shannon, who facilitated the hire.

The Town audit is underway, so there was discus-

sion about how to make this process more streamlined for next year. The Mayor hinted that having a full-time Town Manager might be one way. Speaking of which, Ms. Ventura is now updating the Town website as needed—including meeting minutes and *The Echo*. And the Mayor is pricing hiring a building code enforcement consultant, who could be a less expensive alternative to our Town lawyer for some issues. There was

discussion about filling in the cracks in the asphalt around Town before winter versus applying a slurry. Resident Renny Springuel suggested that the Town look into hiring a road engineer to make sure the drainage on Vassar Circle is properly handled when the road is widened and the four new properties are developed. Mr. Springuel also asked if we could start getting regular updates at the Council meetings from resident

and developer Aaron Hirsch regarding that development.

Odds and Ends

Last month, a man drove into the light at the Post Office, breaking it. He left his name and contact info, and is now paying the \$1,232 price tag for repairing it. No such offers to pay Mr. Stiglitz for his repairs to the Little Free Library damaged in September.

And one last bit of good news, the County clipped

down the brush along MacArthur Boulevard, making oncoming traffic once again visible to our Town's walkers, bikers, and drivers (and vice versa).

Town Expenses

In September, the Town paid \$3,627 to Sun Trust Bankcard, \$3,100 to Elegant Recycling & Refuse Services, \$1,366 to Dennis Alexander (audit), and \$1,300 to Chapel Valley Landscaping. —EMILY PARSONS

NEW TO TOWN

After two years teaching biodynamic craniosacral therapy out of a small yoga studio in College Park, Mimi Iklé-Khalsa wanted to branch out and create a space of her own. When she walked into 6110 Oberlin, she knew immediately that this was the perfect space and that the people of Glen Echo would love it as much as she did.

Her new healing arts center, the Journey Space, opened in September behind The Irish Inn on Oberlin Avenue. She has transformed the space into an eco-friendly, tranquil healing retreat. "Here you can find community, connections, and a respite from an often over-scheduled life, where you can truly attend to your own personal journey," Mimi explained.

Mimi has renovated the building, formerly the offices of Richard Leggin

Architects, using green building materials and zero VOC paints. Additionally, it was wired to be an oasis from electromagnetic fields, with the option to turn off the WIFI. She also removed interior walls to reveal a large, open, light-filled space that can be used in a variety of ways.

As part of the space's transformation from office space to spiritual oasis, she filled every corner with items that support a journey towards peace, like healing crystals and artisan hand-crafted woodwork.

Mimi envisions the Journey Space as a community resource, offering classes, workshops and events. Already, a number of classes are available, many on a donation basis.

These are listed on the Journey Space's website, and include workshops in compassion meditation, essential oils, and creative writing for women. Also offered are more significant commitments, such as her two-year training course in craniosacral massage and



a ten-month workshop in shamanic self-awareness.

One of the center's first offerings is a sacred cacao ceremony—I met Christel Libiot, who offers the experience, during my visit. Christel explains that cacao, the main ingredient in chocolate,

is a superfood that offers an array of physical and spiritual benefits. The ceremonies include meditation, chanting, movement, and sharing.

The Journey Space will rent its space and scheduling system for classes, trainings, and workshops that fit with its overall mission. Mimi has invested in mats, blocks, and blankets for up to 30 yoga students, as well as massage tables to train as many as 26 students. All teachers at the Journey Space are small business owners who rent the space and retain their class fees. Mimi plans to support them in their business, nurturing them with her own advice and expertise. "I look for teachers who are going to bring support and insight to all students, and I want them to be compensated fairly for their efforts," said Mimi. —ANGELA HIRSCH

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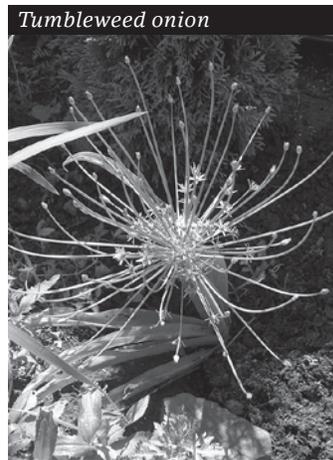
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HOLLY IN THE IVY

November is the perfect time to plant bulbs. Each spring, I enjoy seeing some amazing bulbs that thrive in our Glen Echo gardens. Bulbs are always such uplifting surprises.

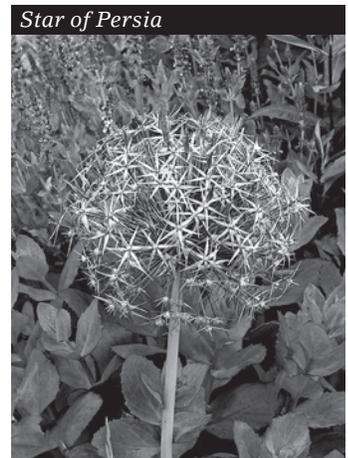
Most bulbs have unique characteristics and often make wonderful talking points. Every autumn, as I am ordering my bulbs, I think about choosing ones that will be easy to grow and yet provide bold or unusual qualities. I tend to make my first stop at the section featuring alliums (ornamental onions), which I love because they resemble gorgeous, large lollipops.



Also, it is possible to dry the seed heads and enjoy these flowers year-round.

The tumbleweed onion (*Allium schubertii*) has huge, rose-purple flower heads that often grow as large as volleyballs! The small, star-shaped flowers on the outer and inner circles of a round flower head always

remind me of fireworks. They generally bloom in late spring, prefer full sun, and will grow to approximately 20 inches tall. Some of the other characteristics that make them a great addition to your garden: They are deer resistant, attract butterflies, and are reliable—they have been grown in gardens since 1896!



Another heirloom allium, dating back to 1884, is the Star of Persia (*Allium christophii*). This popular allium is known for its amethyst-lavender large flower heads which are 8 to 12 inches in diameter. Each head can be packed with as many as 100 little, starry flowers on the round globes. Plants grow to a height of between 1 and 2 feet.

If you like the lollipop-look, I recommend an allium called Purple Sensation (*Allium aflatanense*). It has baseball-sized, dark, lilac-violet flowers on top of straight stems that will grow



IN YOUR BACKYARD

So how do woodpeckers do it? The unique way woodpeckers' beaks attach to their skulls allows them to chisel into tree trunks without damaging their bone structure. Their long tongues quickly extend to retrieve insects and then



Yellow-bellied sapsucker

relax again around the skull. Their toe arrangement, two forward and two back, allows them to cling easily to tree bark—and your feeders! Suet cakes and seed cylinders are most attractive to woodpeckers. We've got Pileated, Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy woodpeckers, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in Glen Echo. See if you can spot them all! —THE WILD BIRD CENTERS



It's bulb planting time!

gold stripes down the center with cinnamon sprinkles on the petals. Plants will grow to 3 to 4 feet in height. Be sure to plant these graceful beauties in a place that has well drained soil and receives 6 to 8 hours of sunlight each day.

In contrast to tall lilies, one of the small jewels in the bulb world is the checkered lily known as guinea hen flower (*Fritillaria meleagris*). These show-stoppers have been grown in gardens as early as 1575. Plants grow 12 to 15 inches in height and prefer partial shade. The nodding red-purple flowers with their checkered pattern make this a garden treasure!

Spring bulbs are always a delightful surprise when they emerge and show off their incredible beauty. They are a wonderful way to shake off the winter blues. Be sure to plant your bulbs before the ground freezes, which is usually in December.

Local garden centers tend to have a wide array of bulbs, but if they do not have what you are looking for, try these online sources listed below: —HOLLY SHIMIZU



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2 to 3 feet tall. Their globe flower heads are about 4 inches across, and bees love their nectar. These purple blooms make stunning cut flowers. Other alliums similar to Purple Sensation and worth trying include Globemaster and Gladiator. They are both tall and have the dramatic lollipop-look.

There are so many types of lilies to choose from, so I often try new selections. I found one called Satisfaction, which is a type of oriental trumpet lily that blooms in early summer

and often reaches 5 feet in height. These are raspberry-coral pink, funnel-shaped flowers with bright yellow in their centers, which will surprise you with their intensely sweet fragrance.

Guinea hen flower



If white flowers appeal to you, I suggest growing Casa Blanca oriental lily known for its pure white, rich textured, scented flowers that illuminate the garden. One lily from Japan that is quite extravagant is known as the gold band lily (*Lilium auratum* var. *platyphyllum*). These white flowers have yellow-

Trumpet lily "Satisfaction"





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	Sung Eucharist & Sunday School	10:30am
Wednesdays:	Morning Prayer	9:00am
	Eucharist	Noon
Thursdays:	Clergy Mornings at Sangamore	10am-12pm
Thanksgiving Day	Eucharist	10:00 am

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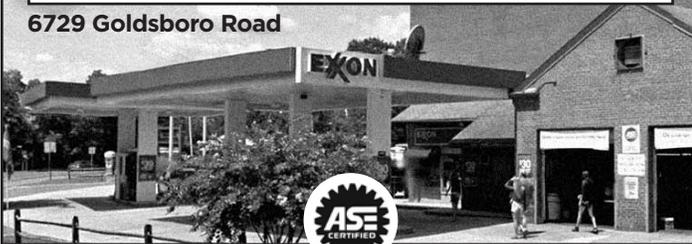
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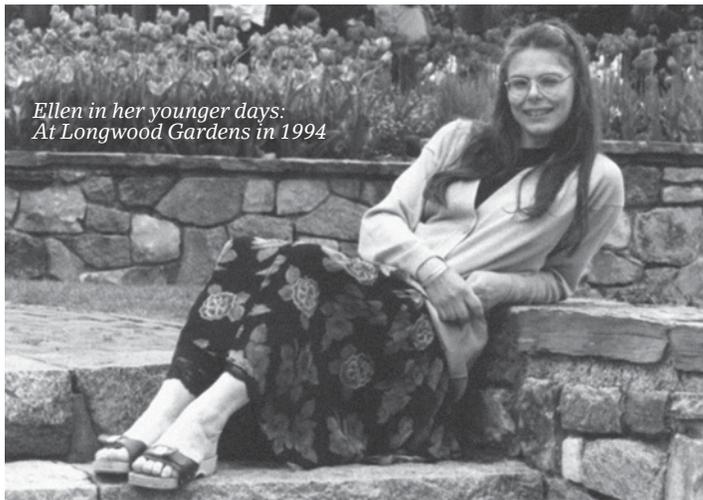
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Ellen Leary, my wife, died on a night in late September. Her passing was sudden. And unexpected. She succumbed to the spirits she drank to placate the demons that roiled inside her. We were married for 33 years, together for 35. She would have celebrated her 65th birthday on the 16th of November.

Some people here knew of Ellen's political activism. At least once a month, at seven o'clock, I would drive her to her "Democratic pancakes" — breakfast meetings of the Montgomery County Democrats. What folks don't know about Ellen was her creativity: she was a gifted producer,

IN MEMORIAM



designer, and director of multimedia productions in a technology no longer in vogue. We met when she was creating a 36-projector show

about the nature of heroism, narrated by Martin Sheen, for the Medal of Honor Society. Among her other clients: Xerox, Kodak, Westvaco, Eli

Lilly, ABC, IBM, Hallmark.

She left her professional life to become a full-time mother. And she was a wonderful mother to our son, especially in his formative years. Aidan was the true love of her life; she was his confidant and teacher and best friend.

Ellen loved living in Glen Echo. She embraced its serenity and felt an elemental sense of belonging in this special town seven miles from the White House. She felt a connectedness here, epitomized best, perhaps, by Ladies Night. We hadn't experienced this anywhere else where we'd lived together. —BERNIE EDELMAN

A REAL COMMUNITY

Ellen and I moved to Glen Echo in 2012, a day before "Snowmageddon," when power was out and the only warmth we had for almost a week was body heat, blankets, and winter coats. We were welcomed to the neighborhood by Elaine Bodlander, who invited us over for a dinner of wonderfully tasty and very hot soup. (They had a generator, bless them.) This level of hospitality, we came to learn, is not at all unusual here. It reminded us of our childhood homes.

Ellen was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, along the shore south of Boston. She was a middle

child, the only girl. In the heady days after the Second World War, she grew up in a tightknit community where neighbors looked after other neighbors' kids as if they were their own. After college and grad school, she moved to New York City. She lived in a trio of apartments in high-rise buildings, vertical living that did not foster any semblance of community.

Me, I was raised in "the projects" — Breuckelen Houses, two dozen or so three- and seven-story red brick buildings — in Canarsie, Brooklyn, whose one distinction was the storybook tale of a hunting party of Canarsee

Indians who allegedly "sold" Manhattan to the explorer Peter Minuit for 24 dollars-worth of trinkets. There was plenty of open space, greenery, and recreational amenities. Behind our building was an asphalt-covered, fenced-off playground where we played until dinner just about every day after school. Living in the projects introduced me to community, where adults black, white, and brown would look after us kids. They might have had nothing in common other than where they lived, but they forged a sense of community in spite of, or maybe because of, the poverty that united them.

This feeling of connectedness was elusive after

we got married: We didn't find it in an apartment on a tony street on the East-side of Manhattan; not in a 175-year-old converted stone mill in a village in far west New Jersey; not in the pleasant suburbs of New Hope; not in the bottom half of a leaky house in Bethesda. Nowhere I've lived since ever recalled for me that welcoming embrace. Not until Glen Echo.

I don't mean to compare this town with Breuckelen, but this is the first real community in which I've lived in fifty years, since my mother and brother and I lived in Apartment 3A at 619 East 108th Street some fourteen moves ago. —B.E.



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OUT AND ABOUT



Emporium at Union Market

This November brings opportunities to indulge throughout the month, long before and after the last turkey leg is claimed.

For all those foodie historians, check out the **Smithsonian Food History** weekend running November 1-3. Scholars and chefs alike will be coming together at the National Museum of American History for demonstrations and lectures on the roots of our oh-so-traditional family favorites.

To step into the more

contemporary food scene, reserve your ticket for the **Emporium** taking place November 9-11. This commonly sold-out event at Union Market features vendors with tasty treats from all around the nation. Hip culinary trends will be on showcase in the market's plush new Dock5 venue space.

Also November 9, attend one of the many films made or inspired by our mid-Atlantic region in the **4th Annual Wheaton Film Festival**. Showings will be all after-

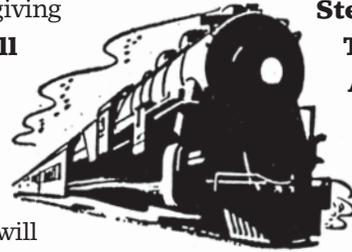
noon, going into the night, and capping off with an afterparty.

As many of us are already aware, Saturday following Thanksgiving marks **Small Business Saturday**. This year, numerous local shops will be vying for your dollars with discounts. For unique wares, head to Northeast to DC Brau, which will be hosting its **5th annual Holiday Market** with over 40 arti-

sans, including food trucks and beer for those, such as myself, drained by shopping.

Looking for something to add to the nostalgia that comes with this time of year? Then plan to make your way to the **Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix tribute** on November 24 in The Barns at Wolf Trap. It's not just a good way to sit back and relax after shopping and overeating, but also a beautiful spot to take out-of-town guests to.

For your *Thomas the Train* fanatics, take them out to the **41st Annual Gaithersburg Railroad- Steamship- Transportation Artifact Show and Sale**. This event will take place at the MoCo Fairgrounds on November 4. Items commonly used in dining cars will be on display, as well as other rail-related artifacts. —MONA KISHORE



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As many of you will remember, the Park's **Adventure Theatre** suffered a major fire in March this year. Thanks to the quick response of staff and the Glen Echo Fire Department, the theater was spared major damage, however the offices of the theater company and rehearsal space were impacted.

Repairs and replacement costs of close to \$500,000 were required. Fortunately, they were able to get up and running for the busy summer season of camps and performances. To thank their many donors and supporters ATMTC held a "grand reopening" celebration with Senator Chris Van Hollen on October 15. Many organizations, including the National Park Service, Montgomery County, and Glen Echo Park Partnership along with foundation and corporate donors, contributed to the restoration. Spaces are much improved as a result. Be sure to attend a performance!

The Partnership's annual

OUR TOWN PARK



Senator Chris Van Hollen attended the reopening of Adventure Theatre in October

Holiday Art Show & Sale

opens on November 17 and runs through December 30. The show is held in both the Popcorn Gallery and the Stone Tower Gallery, and you can find something for just about everyone on your holiday shopping list! The exhibition features work by resident artists, instructors, and invited artists and includes art glass, ceramics, jewelry, photography, painting, holiday ornaments, crafts, and more. Hours are Saturday and Sunday, 11 AM-6 PM, plus special hours on December 8 for Winter's Eve.

Many of us love riding the

Dentzel Carousel in the Park each summer. If you are wondering about its history and how this incredible treasure remains operational and beautiful, read on. Our carousel was manufactured in 1921 and is called a "me-



Rosa Patton

nagerie carousel" because it is made up of many different animals—40 horses, 4 rabbits, 4 ostriches, a giraffe, a deer, a lion, and a tiger stand

in three concentric rings. The carousel moves to the music of a Wurlitzer band organ. Only 12 Wurlitzer organs of this style are known to exist. The Carousel is open for rides from late April to the end of September. During the off-season it undergoes a variety of maintenance procedures. Among them is the loving restoration of the animals and other decorative wood carvings. Every other year since 1983, Rosa Patton has been the faithful expert who does this work for our Carousel. After the season closes, she and her husband, Ron Rozzelle, spend about a week touching up the animals, the band organ,

and other painted wood components. Patton is nationally known as a carousel restorer and has a studio at her home in Saxapahaw, North Carolina. The

restoration work is paid for from a carousel preservation fund maintained by the Glen Echo Park Partnership. —MARTHA SHANNON

Celebrating our 22nd year in Glen Echo!



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Before the October Town Council meeting, a small group of friends of **Nancy Long** gathered to celebrate her **90th birthday** on October 17. It was a surprise to her and a relief to all that she attended. Fifteen years ago, when Nancy turned 75, there was a big birthday party at Town Hall with a catered, sit-down dinner. Nancy was a no-show. Guests enjoyed it nonetheless, toasting Nancy all evening. This time, she cut the praise short (oh, savior of the carousel, Town Council Member since the 60s, curator of the Labor Day Art Show since its inception, champion of greenspace and the C&O Canal, resident for 89 years and six months, and so on), and gave her own toast to the Town where she has spent her life. "I was one of the fortunate few who grew up in Glen Echo. I had two advantages: a lovely family and a wonderful town. It has been my pleasure to be a member of the Town Council here. We are very fortunate to have our own government; we fit in with the other levels of gov-

HAVE YOU HEARD?



Nancy Long

ernment and still maintain our individuality. Glen Echo attracted over the years very interesting people. What a pleasure it is to be able to live here. There was recently a small celebration for public lands, and we have two public lands in our boundary. The Clara Barton National Historic site and Glen Echo Park. I went to visit both of them on Public Lands Day. They are public lands partially due to the efforts of the Town of Glen Echo and a few of us who had some of the right connections at the time and a prospect of a

wonderful future for those two pieces of land and for our town. So I want to thank all of you for this wonderful surprise, it truly is!"

.....

Once again, the Town of Glen Echo has been asked to join Cabin John and Brookmont to **provide gifts for families in homeless and transitional housing through S.O.M.E.** (So Others May Eat). Last year, we had a tremendous response and your generosity was greatly appreciated. We will be assigned approximately 20-25 families this year and soon

will be given the names and ages as well as an optional "Wish List" for each child or a gift idea for the home. **Patty Sieber** and **Julia Wilson** are organizing this drive and will let everyone know how to sign up to shop for one of the families. For more information, email Patty at sieber.patty@gmail.com or call 240-743-7194.

.....

While there are lots of great schools in the area, there is only one public elementary school serving Glen Echo. And good news: It's exemplary! **Bannockburn Elementary School** has been designated an Exemplary High Performing Schools National Blue Ribbon School for 2018 by the U.S. Secretary of Education. The school is one of 349 schools in the nation and one of 7 schools from Maryland to be recognized in 2018.

.....

The **senior village movement**, in which communities help their seniors remain in their homes as they age, has spread like wildfire, especially in Montgomery County. Nearby,



HAUNTED HALLOWEEN IN GLEN ECHO

there's an active village program in Bannockburn, and there's the **Little Falls Village**, which covers all of zip code 20816. LFV has reached out to Glen Echo, hoping to recruit our seniors to join. Unlike Bannockburn's all volunteer village, the LFV, which employs an executive director and rents an office, levies a membership fee. The December *Echo* will report on this more thoroughly, but in the meantime, you can attend LFV's open bimonthly programs held at the Little Falls Library (usually starting 1:30, the second Thursday and the fourth Wednesday of each month). November's scheduled open public talks are: November 8, on emergency

preparedness delivered by a County staffer; and November 28 on the heritability of neuropsychiatric disorders, delivered by a Johns Hopkins physician. An LFV membership recruitment drive will be held November 14, 6:45 to 8 PM at Westland Middle School. LFV's events are found at <https://contacc/2IBKMxb>; those marked "all" are open to the public. —GLORIA LEVIN

Real Estate Report

6001 Yale Avenue, listed at \$1,050,000, is now under contract, due to finalize in November. The list price for 30 Wellesley Circle has come down \$20,000 to \$1,069,000, and the 2 Vassar Circle properties remain active.



Ann English, manager of Montgomery County's RainScapes Program, presented information about reducing stormwater runoff and improving water quality through the use of native plants and rain garden plantings. The Town Environmental Committee hosted the presentation on October 24 in the Town hall.



They Say it's Your BIRTHDAY!

Nov. 18, **Kate Dobson**, 10
 Nov. 19, **Cristina Hooper**, 8
 Nov. 19, **Caroline Koonce**, 9

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, **Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28** 8–10:30 PM, free to Town residents

Local Events

Nov. 4 10 AM–2 PM, → Glen Echo plant exchange at the farm stand on University and Yale

Nov. 6 Election Day, VOTE!!



Glen Echo Park Events

Nov. 11 3–5 PM, FSGW Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom's back room, \$5 per person

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2–5, standard entry fees apply



The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
Hansel and Gretel, through November 16

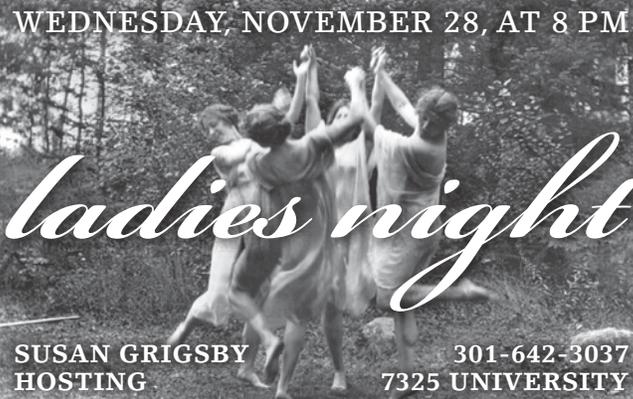
Tiny Tots select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10AM

Adventure Theater MTC

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

Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas, November 16–January 6

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, AT 8 PM

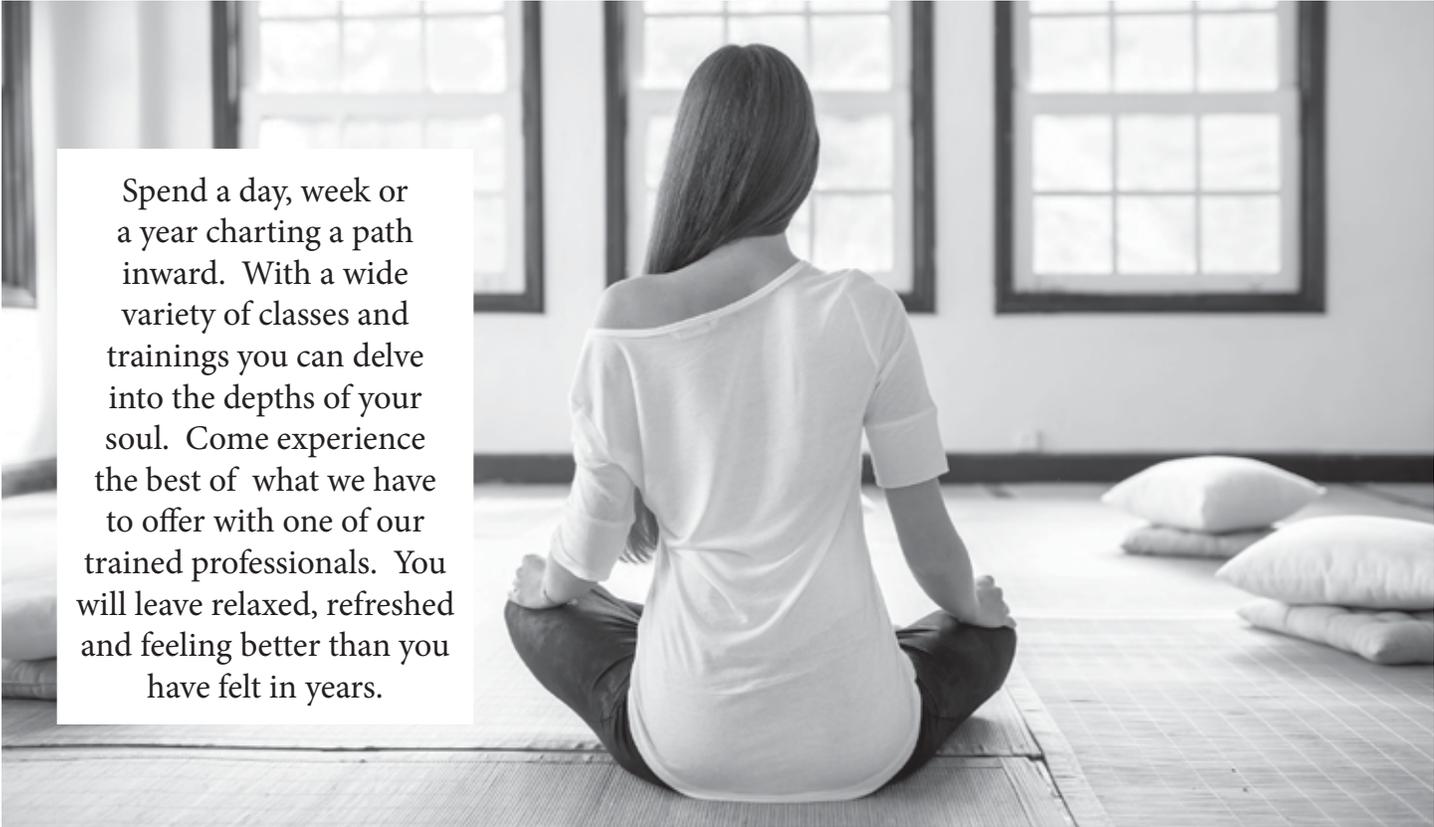


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Workshops this month:

Creative Mandala Workshop: The Mandala of Holistic Balance. Including Meditation and Hands-on Creative Drawing with Kate Lanxner Sun, Nov. 04 2018
12:45 PM - 4:15 PM

2 Day Introductory Workshop to Biodynamic Crainiosacral Therapy with Mimi Ikle-Khalsa
Tue, Nov 06 2018 - Wed, Nov. 07 2018 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Circle of Compassion & Moving Meditation with Lourdes Billingsley Sun, Nov. 11 2018 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Alchemical Alignment with Brigit Viksnins
Nov. 15 2018 - Nov. 18 2018 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

2 Day Introductory Workshop to Biodynamic Crainiosacral Therapy with Mimi Ikle-Khalsa Sat, Nov 17 2018
Sun, Nov 18 2018 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM



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