



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ SEPTEMBER 2021

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Having skipped coming together in August, the last Council meeting was way back on July 12. The Mayor, the four Council Members—including Mona Kishore, newly elected via special election—Town Manager Beth Boa, advisor Jean Sperling, and several residents attended that Zoom call.

Environmental Grant

Resident Robin Kogelnik reported on next steps for the \$14,700 grant recently awarded to Glen Echo from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Ms. Kogelnik, Ms. Boa, and resident Holly Shimizu have gotten proposals from three contractors that would assess the water management needs of the Town. Of Clark Azar, Coastal Resources, and Greening Urban, they recommended that the Town hire Green Urban primarily because it is the company that did the rain garden at Bannockburn Clubhouse, so they already have a familiarity with the water issues in this area. All three are highly regarded

and submitted strong proposals and the quotes were similar, but Ms. Kogelnik reported that Greening Urban was the most responsive. She added that we could have one group do the analysis and another implement the solutions. Ms. Sperling weighed in, saying that once the federal funds from the American Rescue Plan arrive, many municipalities will be scrambling to hire these types of firms; getting in now will help the Town establish relationships with companies in a growing field—stormwater management. Based on their recommendation, the Council approved going with Greening Urban.



Our newest Council Member Mona Kishore was sworn in by Mayor Dia Costello on July 14 as her children Riya and Alya looked on.

Town Land at Oberlin and Tulane

Mayor Costello opened the question of possibly developing or selling the plots of land owned by Glen Echo over by the Irish Inn by saying that this was just an initial discussion to get people thinking about it and hearing what the Council Members thought. Doing nothing with the land is one of the options, along with sell-

ing or re-zoning or leasing, or coming up with a use that could benefit residents, like a community garden.

Council Member Wilson said it would be nice to make some money off of the plots, but Council Member Kishore said that controlling what went in that space was more important. While Council Member Stiglitz is reluctant to liquidize the assets, he sees upsides to mak-

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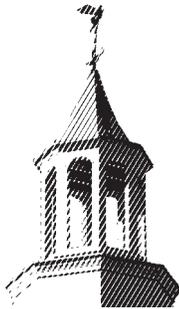
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed.

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 Council Meeting: September 13, 2021, 8 PM

ing the property more salable by re-zoning it, but Ms. Sperling said that she's seen other towns do this and it's not worth the headache. She suggested the Council answer the question: What does the Town need? And if it doesn't need anything specifically in that space, we should sell the land and collect interest on those funds. Council Member Spealman said that this discussion should be in tandem with a discussion of future and recurring infrastructure needs and costs. With the Town already in good financial shape and a windfall of federal money on the way, there isn't an immediate need to sell. The Mayor concluded by saying that she'd follow up with a couple of possible interested buyers, including Glen Echo Park, and see if any of our neighboring municipalities have had the experience of re-zoning prior to selling. The Council is also interested in getting advice or an assessment of the value of the land from a commercial real estate agent.

Town Trees

Hughes Landscaping offered to have their arborist do an assessment of the Town's trees free of charge. They identified 33 trees that were of concern. Some can be handled by Pepco, some are on Town land, and some are on residents' land. Owners of flagged trees will get a notice from Town Hall. Hughes, of course, proposed that they do some of the tree work and also that they cut back brush along Columbia and Oberlin Avenues. The quote for that brush work: \$7,200. The Town had Rolling Acres do this work for \$2,180 after getting two other bids. Ms. Sperling said that the first thing to do is bring in Pepco and let them do their tree work, which would be free to the Town.

Odds and Ends

The Mayor wants to plan a volunteer-appreciation event for the fall. The tentative date is October 3 and things like cupcakes, champagne, and custom reusable shopping bags were men-

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tioned. A price tag of \$300-\$400 was floated.

Ms. Boa said that the audit has begun and noted that the Town's net income was \$137K, more than \$100K more than they expected. She reported that we've renewed our sanitation contract with Key, the metal fence by the Post Office will be repaired soon, and the elevator in Town Hall passed inspection.

The Mayor said that she's been in contact with WMATA about the planned trestle demolition. The timeline has moved back a bit to early 2022. She said that she's been a squeaky wheel about keeping them off Glen Echo streets and getting them to promise tree replacement. Mr. Spealman added that he wanted to keep nagging them about maintaining access to the canal at the one-lane bridge. Mayor Costello said that they plan to close it during the week.

There was a lengthy discussion about returning to in-person Council meetings. It mostly pertained to wheth-

er there should be a virtual option for residents and traveling Council members. That question is still open, but Ms. Boa is getting advice from Montgomery Municipal Cable on how to do it. The other question was about meeting at 7 versus 8 PM. Some of the Council Members said that it would be difficult to make the earlier time once people are back in-person at work. So, the next Council meeting will most likely be upstairs at Town Hall on September 13 at 8 PM, but that wasn't yet finalized at press time. The October meeting was moved to Monday, October 18, due to Columbus Day.

Town Expenses

In July, the Town paid \$3,200 to Key Sanitation, \$2,614 to Hughes Landscaping, and \$2,315 to Local Government Insurance Trust. In August, the Town paid \$3,200 to Key Sanitation, \$3,132 to Hughes Landscaping, \$3,103 to PNC Bank, \$2,180 to Rolling Acres Landscaping, and \$1,240 to Bolt Legal. —EMILY PARSONS



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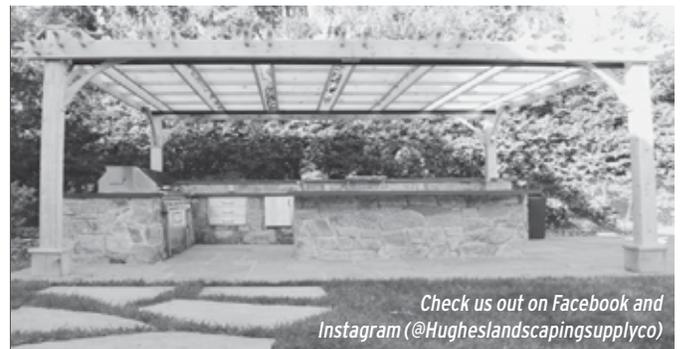
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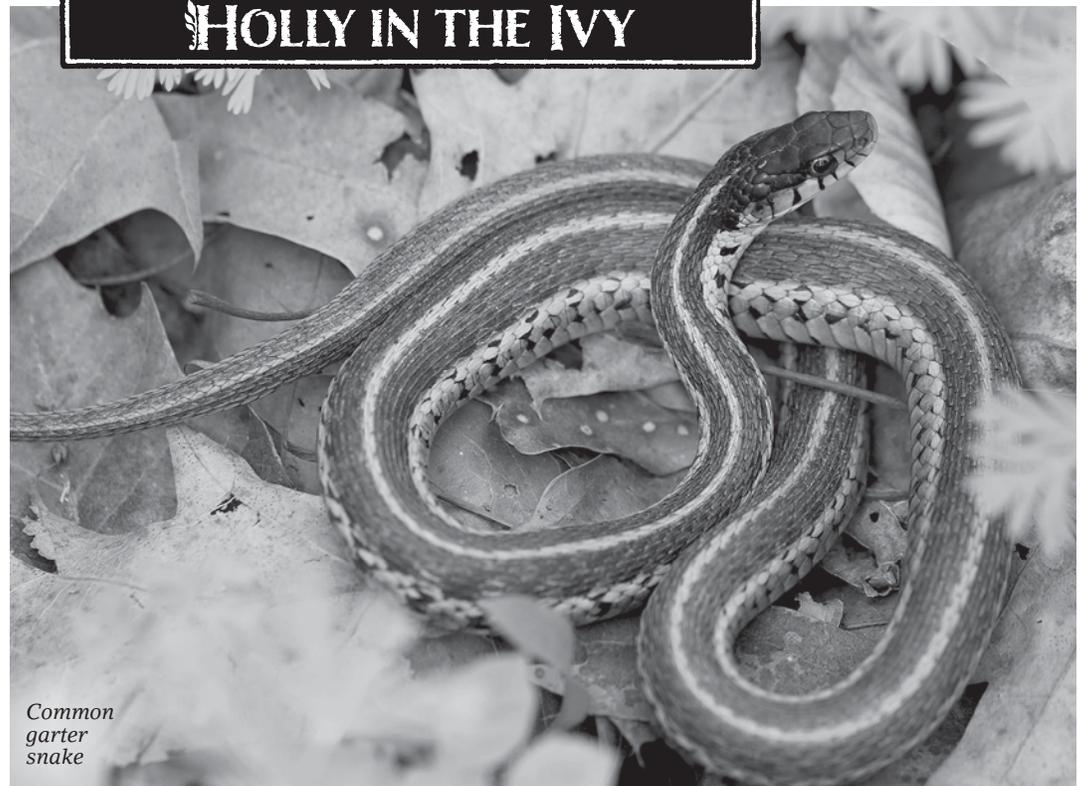
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The first snake I encountered in my Glen Echo garden took place in my early days of composting. Unfortunately, my first composter allowed any interested creature to hop in and feast on the compost treats that had not yet decomposed. One day, as I began turning the compost, a gorgeous snake slithered away in the midst of digesting one of the rats that had discovered the available compost. As much as I enjoyed my encounter with the snake, I knew I needed to stop feeding the rats. So, I changed over to a composter which is an enclosed, raised system that is not accessible to rats. Now, most of the snakes I see are along the canal or the river, but I am always especially pleased to spy one in my garden.

Snakes are unfairly maligned. They are perceived by many people as something to be feared and killed. However, they are rarely aggressive towards humans. The large majority of snakes in this area are not



Common garter snake

only harmless, but they play an important role in ecosystems because they eat rats, mice, other rodents, and insects. Snakes are also an important food source for birds and larger animals such as the red-shouldered hawk that relies on snakes to feed their young. There are two species of venomous snakes in Maryland and both of these are shy and will stay

away from humans if possible. Problems occur when people try to catch or handle one. It's best to leave them alone. In fact, it is illegal to kill any snake in Maryland.

The snakes most often encountered are the eastern garter snake, black rat snake, and northern water snake (if there is a body of water nearby). We might also see the brown snake,

worm snake, ring-necked snake, eastern king snake, and hog-nosed snake. Take a look at these beautiful snakes on this website: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/Common-Snakes-of-Maryland-Photo-Guide.pdf>

In the fall, snakes begin searching for a place to hibernate. Their favorite places to spend the winter are

PHOTO: KERRY WIXTED

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cool, damp, and dark. They love stone walls, rock crevices, piles of firewood, animal burrows, wild areas, or cluttered storage sheds. Often people create a hibernaculum, which is a kind of underground area created with rocks, logs, and leaf litter that snakes can use during winter to protect them from the cold. Watch some of the great YouTube videos that explain how to build a simple hibernaculum at home.

In a 1991 *Audubon Naturalist News* article, zoologist Bela Demeter described how the construction of the C&O Canal created one of the longest man-made snake dens in the world. The miles of rocks, stone, roots, crevices, and brick have endless spaces where snakes and other reptiles can find refuge and enjoy the southern exposure that keeps the spaces warm throughout the winter. As you take walks in our area, keep an eye out for these treasured snakes. Consider it a real treat if you happen to see one. —HOLLY SHIMIZU

OUT AND ABOUT

Kick off the month with some smooth jazz from September 1–5 at The Wharf for **DC JazzFest**. General admission is free to the public. For the high-flying jazz lover, consider splurging on a luxury private cabana for you and five of your closest friends.

Enjoy the last few nights of summer with outdoor films in the park. The last two **French screenings** will show under the stars September 4 in Anacostia Park and September 23 on the National Mall as part of **Films on the Green DC** organized by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

On September 4–5, in Rockville Town Square, enjoy the **9th Annual Rockville Arts Festival** with pieces from artists from 22 states and performances across both days.

Sunday, September 12, the **Takoma Park Folk Festival** will be running 4–9 PM with a hybrid format. All performances by

diverse local groups will be live-streamed with updates pending on whether in-person performances will occur. A craft show from noon to 6:30 PM will be in-person at the Takoma Park Community Center.

iday considered the world's happiest event. Enjoy food, festivities, and dance routines galore.

Take out your helmets and get ready for car-free roads around the monuments with the return of



On September 19, from noon to 9 PM, **Bull Run Regional Park** turns into a cloud of colors with this year's **regional celebration of Holi**, an Indian hol-

DC Bike Ride on September 25. The event will feature a 20-mile route with music and rest areas, ending at the U.S. Capitol. —MONA KISHORE

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ROAMIN' HOLIDAYS



Alexander and I spent 11 days and nights backpacking and camping at Philmont Scout Ranch in northeastern New Mexico. We trekked more than 60 miles with in a crew of 8 scouts and 4 dads from Rockville Troop 1450. Highlights included summiting Mt. Philips (11,740 ft), waking at 3:30 AM to climb the Tooth of Time to see the sunrise (1), tying flies for fishing, tomahawk throwing, camping, and a hail-storm! Here we are near Apache Peak for sunset.

—BILL VINCENT

Paul and I took our granddaughters Sasha and Georgia to Costa Rica. Sasha and I went pedal-boarding (2) on Arenal Lake. —DEBBIE LANGE

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Since our house is still under renovation, we took off on an epic (8,000 mile!) road trip: driving from Maryland to Wisconsin to Wyoming to Laguna Beach, CA, where Blair is from. The return route was via Jackson Hole, Arches, Grand Canyon, Canyon de Chelly and Mesa Verde. These are pictures (3-4) from our





3



4



5



6

hike through Arches National Monument, which was spectacular. Durke (11), Mads (7), Archer (2), Blair and me. —TISHA ANDERSON

We headed to Breckenridge in August for more outdoor adventures! —VANESSA SAX

We took a summer road trip to Fargo. Stopped at Frank Lloyd Wright's house in Wisconsin. Toured a Minnesota Lake in a houseboat, and caught a Cubs game (6) at Wrigley. —DAN SPEALMAN

The Parsons/Amdur crew made their annual pilgrimage to Old Black Point, CT. While there we enjoyed side trips to the old Mystic Seaport (8), Stockbridge, MA, and Woodstock, VT. —EMILY PARSONS

The Sax family (Kasey, Vanessa, Chloe, and Emma) headed up north to Bar Harbor and Acadia with a stop at the grandparents house in NH along the way. We hiked the challenging Beehive (along with other fun hikes) and enjoyed Acadia's amazing views (5).



7

We took a little tourism break while dropping Cecily off at University of Amsterdam! —ANGELA HIRSCH



8

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The Dentzel Carousel's 100th Anniversary events continued this summer with lectures on the band organ by historian Durward Center and the long-term restoration of the carousel animals by conservator Rosa Patton. These lectures will be available online. A band organ expo was held at the Park in mid-August. A colorful illustrated booklet on the history of our Carousel has been published by historian Barbara Fahs Charles. That is available in the Popcorn Gallery along with tote bags, face masks, a framed poster, notecards, and a coloring book. Also, an informative photo history exhibition is on view in the Candy Corner building. This show was produced by the National Park Service and features the events surrounding the Civil Rights protests at the Park in the early 1960s.

Join us on September 26 for the final Family Day celebration of the 2021 carousel season. The day will include special guests, family events, music, and, of course, carousel rides.

Labor Day weekend will be packed with events for the whole family. Our popular art show will be open from September 4-6 (hours 12 to 6 PM) in the Spanish Ballroom. This is the 50th annual Labor Day art show.

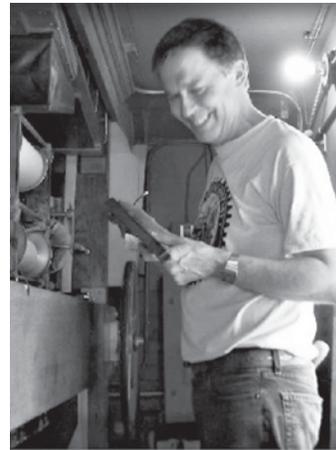
OUR TOWN PARK



Historian Durward Center has been the restorer and caretaker of the carousel's Wurlitzer Band Organ for the last 50 years. The photo at right shows him in his younger days, at work in the back of the organ.

Town records indicate that the first show in 1971 was an "art contest" which signaled the end of the first public season of the Park as an arts organization run by the National Park Service. In 1972, the three-day event attracted 200 participants and over 2,300 guests. Former Town resident and Council Member Nancy Long is credited with starting this annual tradition and over the years has served as its curator.

The 2021 show will fea-



ture over 200 artists from the mid-Atlantic region. Art works include painting, sculpture, photography, works on paper, ceramics, glass, fiber arts, furniture, and jewelry. All works are for sale! Attend the pub-

lic preview September 3 from 7:30-9 PM.

September 4 will be an open house for fall classes. Meet instructors and experience demonstrations from 12-4 PM in the Bumper Car Pa-

vilion. Join us there the next day for a Showcase of Social Dance from 11:30 AM to 9 PM. On Monday, September 6, there will be a family craft day in the Bumper Car Pavilion. Enjoy root beer floats and try your hand at crafts projects celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Carousel. Our final free summer concerts will be held on September 2 and September 9. Come at 7:30 for a fun and relaxing evening of live music in the Bumper Car Pavilion.

On August 16, the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture hosted a dialogue with Senator Chris Van Hollen and County arts program leaders. The Senator heard about the challenges of the Covid shut-down over the past 18 months and how the arts have coped with the help of federal and state grants and loans. The Senator promised to monitor the health of our important arts programs in the coming fiscal year.

In July, our long-term Development Director, Debbie Mueller, left GEPPAC to take a position closer to her home. We have begun the search for a new director of development. Fundraising for the Park is critical as we recover from the Covid impacts and plan for new programs and facilities improvements. —**MARTHA SHANNON (AKA MARTHA MORRIS, GEPPAC BOARD PRESIDENT)**



Labor Day Art Show

Glen Echo's summer picnic on July 18 was great fun with the usual taco buffet and water slide and the second annual pie contest. Thanks to **Beth Boa**, **Mayor Costello**, and the Council Members for set up, serving, and the tough job of judging the pies. Congratulations to the winners! In the adult category: Best Crust: **Madeleine Carter** in collaboration with **Angela Hirsch**; Best Looking: **Carol Barton**; Best Fruit: **Jan Shaut**; Best Non-Fruit: **Renny Springuel**; Best Overall: **Madeleine Carter** in collaboration with **Angela Hirsch**. In Kids: Best Tasting: **Greta Hirsch**; Best Looking: **Cleo Moreau**.

HAVE YOU HEARD?



Alexa Shimizu, daughter of **Holly and Osamu Shimizu** of Bryn Mawr Avenue, was married on July 23 to Katie Kneuker in San Francisco. It was a real celebration at a nearby winery followed by a fantastic honeymoon in Hawaii.

Glen Echo residents (and family members) **Bevan Shimizu, Holly Sheldon** and **Nina Thompson** were also in attendance.

.....
Oxford Road residents, **Deacon and Mrs. Bob Vince** are pleased to

announce the engagement of their son, **Robert Tomas (Tommy)** to Morgan Holliger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Holliger of Perysburg, Ohio. The November wedding is planned at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington DC. Congratulations!



Above: This year's Fourth of July parade featured the debut of a kids' marching band organized by Angela Hirsch.

At the summer picnic, pie contest judges Dan Spealman, Mona Kishore, and Matt Stiglitz (top right) discuss the merits of various pie entries, awarding Best Non-Fruit pie to Renny Springuel (far right) and Best Looking pie to Carol Barton's lattice work (lower right).



It's yard sale time again!



Cristina Bermudez of Wellesley Circle is running a unique (and popular!) catering company from her basement kitchen. At any given time, she has 16 families that she is cooking for, and they receive fresh and creative (and vegan if desired) meals as many days a week as they'd like. Even if all her family slots are taken, there are a la carte baked goods and desserts that can be ordered at her website www.oldtwist.com

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Glen Echo's Town-wide yard sale will be on October 2 from 9 AM to 12 PM. For all the new people, and because we had to skip it last year, here's what you need to know. The Town will advertise the event, so if you want to participate you just put out your items the

day of the sale. You can borrow a table from Town Hall if you need one. There will be no rain date this year, so if the weather is bad, the yard sale will be canceled. The Town-wide yard sale is a beloved event, fun even if you just stroll around chatting with neighbors, but it needs volunteers to put up signs and advertise. Email Diana Hudson-Taylor at dhudson_taylor@yahoo.com if you can help. And pro tip: Don't put anything for the sale out on Friday, which is large-item pick-up day!

Real Estate

6105 Bryn Mawr Avenue closed last month at \$1,060,000, and 12 Wellesley Circle at \$710,012. The Wild Bird Centers building at 7370 MacArthur Boulevard is still listed at \$2,290,000.



They Say it's Your **BIRTHDAY!**

- Aug. 26, **Sandra Gillberg**, 5
- Aug 29, **Jett Belinkie**, 4
- Sept. 1, **Mads Anderson**, 8
- Sept. 15, **Corrina Spealman**, 13
- Sept. 18, **Alya Kishore**, 4
- Sept. 21, **Liam Dobson**, 11
- Sept. 26, **Stella Gillberg**, 7
- Sept. 28, **PG Parsons Amdur**, 8
- Sept. 28, **Declan Spealman**, 11

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Park Events

September 4 12-4 PM, Open House for classes, Bumper Car Pavilion

September 5 11:30 AM-9 PM, Social Dance Showcase, Bumper Car Pavilion

September 6 12-3 PM, Family crafts and root beer floats, Bumper Car Pavilion

September 26 11 AM-4 PM, final Family Day and the last day of the carousel season

Summer Concert Series Thursdays at 7:30 PM, Bumper Car Pavilion

September 2 James Bazen Big Band (Big Band Jazz)

September 9 The Lovejoy Group (Swing/Standard)

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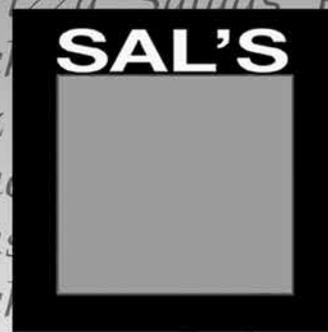
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