

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



February 2004

TOWN APPROVES LEASING OF LAND FOR PARKING

By David Chitwood

Chris Hughes, owner of the newly opened Irish Inn at Glen Echo, formally requested at the Jan. 12 council meeting that the town lease him some land in order to provide parking spaces for valet parking in the Tulane/Oberlin Aves. area. The land in question now has the remains of a basketball court and has occasionally been used by Glen Echo Park during festivals.

Both Mr. Hughes and Mayor Beers indicated that the residential neighbors of the Inn were in favor of the leasing arrangement. Sally Law, adjacent business owner in attendance at the meeting, testified that she was in complete support.

Mr. Hughes said all parking presently is valet parking; even so, it remains a huge problem because of lack of space. He and the council then discussed some specific items within the agreement. They agreed that a two-layered gravel-wood chip covering was appropriate.

Councilmember Dan Macy stated that he wanted the parking area to remain as green as possible. To this, Sally Law replied that the area has had a poor appearance for years. Mr. Hughes indicated that his personal preference was for a fenced area, although he would plant Leland cypresses or another green border.

The Mayor noted that the town was offering a revocable license, not a lease, the latter which would be more difficult for either party to terminate. The license could be terminated

—continued on page 4

COUNCIL APPROVES NEW SETBACK ORDINANCE

By David Chitwood

As described in last month's *Echo*, a residential builder had purchased a lot in the town and planned to erect a large house at Yale and Columbia Aves. with an entrance on Yale set back only 15 feet from the street.

Although county regulations generally require a 25-foot setback from the street, a loophole does permit a 15-foot setback in the case of a corner house if no other house in the block faces the same street.

However, the county does permit municipalities to enact setback regulations more strict than the county's. This is the only type of building variation that the county allows; for example, the town lacks the authority to regulate building height.

At the Jan.12 town council meeting, Mayor Beers described a proposed ordinance mandating 25-foot front setbacks in all locations in town. In the case of corner lots, this would mean 25 feet setbacks from both streets, regardless of which street the house fronted on. This proposal had been examined and modified by town attorney Norman Knopf. She pointed out that although the intent of the ordinance was to regulate new construction and tear-downs, the proposal would apply to additions to existing homes.

She noted that the ordinance contains the possibility of awarding variances, and that the number of homes that

—continued on page 3

THE ECHO

Published unofficially by, for and in the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of *The Echo* on file at Little Falls and Rockville libraries. Total circulation: 190. Distributed the first weekend of the month.

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Next Deadline February 27

Printed by Allied Printing

Letters to the Editor are welcomed. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Any comments about *The Echo* may be addressed to the Editor, the Mayor or any councilmember. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the Editor at: 301-229-3748.

♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

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TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

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LIKE TO HAVE THE AGENDA BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING?

Anyone who would like to have the agenda for the town council meeting emailed to them in advance need only make the request by emailing the clerk/treasurer at townhall@glenecho.org with their email address.

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SETBACKS (FROM P. 1)

would be specifically impacted by the ordinance is small. If an owner wanted to make an addition onto an existing house which was not set back the required 25 feet from the street, a variance would be needed.

Town resident Leah Hertz questioned if the ordinance would place an unfair burden upon the owners of older homes, and wondered about the possibility of neighbors claiming that a modification to such a home would create the "unduly adverse effect" stated in the ordinance as grounds for denying a variance. She also wondered if the proposed changes would further increase tensions that exist between some town neighbors and expressed a belief that the county regulations are sufficient.

Mayor Beers replied that such variances when making structural improvements would still be required regardless of town action because of the county laws. She added that the proposed ordinance would not apply to many homes and that the ordinance contained provisions for flexibility.

She doubted that the new ordinance would be used by spiteful neighbors, if any actually existed in Glen Echo. She added that this ordinance of not being created out of spite but is a rational component of the town's planning process, specifically being done to plug a loophole in the County ordinance, as described by Town attorney Norman Knopf.

Mayor Beers indicated that variances to the town ordinance would be granted directly by the town council. She added that the town has already notified the county of the proposed ordinance, so that builders or potential homeowners now contacting the county will be informed of it. Like all new ordinances, this one will also be placed on the Town's web site.

Councilmember Macy moved that the ordinance be passed; Councilmember Maloy seconded. Councilmember Long recused herself. Mayor Beers commented that even with Ms. Long's recusal and Councilmember Arber's absence, a quorum was still present. The ordinance passed 2-0 and took effect immediately.

MANY CENTENNIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR

A varied and interesting schedule of events is being planned for the celebration in 2004 of The Town of Glen Echo's 100 years of existence. All events are free to Glen Echo residents and most will take place at the Town Hall. The general public is invited to the talks and town residents are invited to the parties as well as the talks.

It is suggested that residents put these dates in their calendars now.

On Saturday, February 14, a Valentine Party will feature valentine-making in the centennial style, circa 1904. All residents are invited, with pizza and refreshments being served. The time is 5:00-7:00 p.m.

On Sunday, February 15, Harry Ways will speak on the construction of the Washington Aqueduct and its Chief Engineer Montgomery Meigs, as well as the Cabin John Bridge. Mr. Ways is the retired Chief of the Washington Aqueduct of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In March, town residents are invited to a **St. Patrick's Day dinner on Saturday, March 13**, from 5:30 p.m..

On Sunday, March 21, Holly Shimizu will speak on "Plants Native to the Potomac Region" at the town hall from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Ms. Shimizu is the Executive Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden. She will show slides and give advice on how to build a native plant garden.

On Palm Sunday, April 4, an event is scheduled celebrating the actual anniversary of the town, and a speaker will be scheduled.

Saturday, May 15, will feature a town garden tour.

A picnic to celebrate the formal proclamation of the founding of Glen Echo will probably take place in July. Neighboring municipalities will be invited to participate in the celebration.

Other events will be publicized later.

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LEASING FOR PARKING (FROM P. 1)

30-day notice.

Mr. Hughes said his present intention is not to charge customers for the valet parking. He said that if the town did not want him to charge, he would not, as he believed that obtaining parking was critical to the success of his two-million-dollar investment.

The Mayor proposed \$500 as the monthly fee. Mr. Hughes added that he already pays \$500 weekly to the valets.

Ms. Law expressed a belief that the town should give Mr. Hughes a break, especially during the early months of his restaurant enterprise, by charging him only \$250 monthly. Mr. Hughes said that \$200-\$250 monthly seemed reasonable to him. In addition, he will have to finance surfacing of the area and planting shrubbery or trees.

Mayor Beers said that town attorney Norman Knopf thought that a drawing of the area to mark a boundary would be sufficient.

Councilmember Nancy Long and Mr. Hughes both stated that Karen Pittleman had indicated that the hemlock tree marked the dividing line. In contrast, Ms. Law said that she had been told that the basketball court was the dividing line. The Mayor stated that the Park must have a plat of the area.

The Mayor then proposed that \$250 be the fee, that an effort be made to precisely locate the boundary of the area, and that approval be conditional based on receipt of the map in the mail from Mr. Knopf and insertion of additional insurance language in the agreement, to be added by Mr. Knopf. She asked for a motion; it passed two votes to one.

Councilmember Long voted against the motion, citing her beliefs that this was an inappropriate use of residential property and that the parking system will remain fraught with problems even when this additional parking space is utilized. She added that the town had received a letter from one local realtor stating that use of this area for parking could be detrimental to property values in the town



The discovery by Diane Leatherman of Cabin John and town resident Raya Bodnarchuk of a **hidden cemetery** was described in the Jan 21 issue of the *Gazette*. The access to the overgrown African-American cemetery involved climbing up a steep hill off Seven Locks Road that is covered with brush. Since then, Ms. Leatherman and a 71-year-old woman with family members buried in the cemetery have received permission from a nearby property owner to cut through his yard for easier access. They are hoping that eventually a footpath will be created near the cemetery. It is located near the Gibson Grove African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on Seven Locks Road...

The Malmgrens would like to make a correction to Jane's 2004 Phone Directory. Their phone number is 301-263-0146...

The *Gazette* newspaper found the "stomping" carried out by some Morris dancers at the town hall newsworthy enough for an article, "Stomping is out at Glen Echo town hall." The town council's decision to restrict the number of dance groups permitted to use the hall was reported in the December *Echo*...

Ruth Laughlin, former resident of 21 Wellesley Circle, writes from Boone, NC that she is now running a Bed & Breakfast overlooking Green Valley, with views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is open from April to November. Her website is www.BigSkyLodgeBB.com. She still owns her Glen Echo house and comes to visit occasionally...

Glen Echo residents might be interested in the Town of Chevy Chase's **Adopt-a-Plant** program, in which those removing mature plants can donate them to other residents who agree to replant them. Town residents in Chevy Chase call or email the town office to donate plants or to determine what plants are available. In some cases, builders and landscapers have offered large trees free, although the new owners had to pay for the transport and transplanting costs. *The Echo* would be happy to print ads from anyone who has plant materials they wish to donate to other residents and perhaps the town council would consider setting up such a program...

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HUGHES

LANDSCAPING

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John Hughes
301-589-6040

RESIDENT COMPLAINS RECYCLING PICKED UP WITH TRASH

By David Chitwood

Town resident Constance Macy told the town council on Jan. 12 that she had witnessed the regular garbage crew tossing the recycled materials from her house into the regular truck. When asked about it by her husband, the garbage collectors responded, "We're helping our buddies out."

She added that she has been noticing that several of her neighbors have not been using recycling bins, and that the problem of poor participation was conspicuously visible after the Christmas holiday, when neighbors had not broken down cardboard boxes, which were being blown about by the wind.

Mayor Debbie Beers responded that when the town examined the recycling issue a decade ago, the consensus was that people do not want to be forced to recycle; therefore, there is no law mandating resident participation in recycling.

One exception is the county requirement that yard wastes not be mixed with regular trash. The mayor added that Clerk-Treasurer Polak has spoken with the trash company about recycling problems on several occasions.

Councilmember Nancy Long mentioned that town residents can obtain a second recycling tub from the town if needed.

NEED A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? HELP SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT.

Did you know that you can recycle—

- Diaper boxes**
- Cereal & cracker boxes**
- Toy/gift boxes**
- Tissue boxes, and**
- Just about any cardboard box as long as it is flattened, clean and empty.**

As well as—

- Paper towel rolls**
- Toilet tissue rolls**
- Junk mail**
- Gift wrap (tinfoil)**
- Holiday cards**

Everything should be flattened, if necessary, placed in paper bags along with the newspapers, and put in the green recycling bin. If you need an additional recycling bin, please contact the clerk/treasurer at 301-320-4041.

MORE NEXT MONTH

--Constance Macy

Paid Advertisement



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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Maire Hewitt's
56 Wellesley Circle*

Wednesday, February 18, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-229-2962

DANCING AND PARTYING FEB. 28 TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY CENTER

On February 28, Deanna Bogart and her band are coming to the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John to play lively music and blow the winter blues away! This is an opportunity to dance and party while at the same time supporting the local Community Center.

Singer and barrelhouse pianist Deanna Bogart recently played at the Birchmere and at the Barns at Wolftrap. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will be used to support the Community Center, which is feeling the financial pinch of local government cut-backs.

Tickets are \$25/person. The festivities will be from 7:30 to 11:00 p.m. (dancing starts at 8:30 p.m.). Desserts and munchies are included in the ticket price, and a cash bar will be available for beer, wine and soda/water.

Please contact Trudi Bick at (301) 229-5929 or trudi-bick@comcast.net for tickets. This event is being organized by a group of local residents interested in dancing, hearing good music, and the continued success of activities and programs held at the Clara Barton Community Center.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN TOUR WANTS YOU AND YOUR GARDEN

For many years in the past The Town of Glen Echo held garden competitions with prizes in different categories. For the occasion of the Centennial Diana Hudson-Taylor is reviving the tradition, but in the spirit of her laid-back retirement, the garden tour she is planning won't be a competition. Rather, it will be a stroll through Glen Echo to look at the spring gardens and landscaping which delight the community.

Your garden does not have to be perfectly laid out or carefully weeded. Vegetable plantings, container gardens, and children's projects are all of interest.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 15, from 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. with escorted groups leaving the town hall on the hour and half hour.

Town resident Holly Shimizu will speak on Native Plants of the Area on March 21, which will provide inspiration and guidance for those thinking of participating in the tour.

To volunteer your garden or time as an escort, please call Diana Hudson-Taylor at 301-229-2163.

WHEN SNOW FALLS....

University Ave. is the designated Snow Emergency Route for the Town of Glen Echo.

When snow is anticipated, residents are asked to park only on the northeast side of University Ave., the side nearest MacArthur Blvd. or on the side streets.

There should be **NO PARKING** on the river side of University Ave. This will enable snow plows to keep a wide section of the roadway clear to permit fire and rescue access to town.

IT'S COLD OUT THERE!

Donations of cold weather clothes-- particularly blankets, hats, mittens, scarves and thermal underwear--wanted to distribute on the streets of D.C. through Martha's Table/Mckenna's Wagon.

Glen Echo councilmember T.K. Maloy will be collecting donations in a box at his front porch to take down monthly during volunteer work on the McKenna's Wagon mobile soup kitchen.

Question? E-mail: tmaloy@upi.com



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FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

The following activities booked at the town hall are free for town residents:

Saturday, Feb. 14, 5:00-7:00 p.m.—TOWN VALENTINE PARTY (please note change in announced date)

Saturday, Feb. 7, 8:00 p.m.—MANDO MAFIA. Mandolin band with roots in Appalachian Old-Timey String Band traditions. Presented by The Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

Sunday, Feb. 8, 3:30-5:30 p.m.—FAMILY DANCE. Featuring fiddler Steve Hickman, who does "Hambone" (slapping the face and body to make sounds)

Monday, Feb. 8, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

Sunday, Feb. 15, 3:00-5:00 p.m.—CENTENNIAL EVENT: HARRY WAYS, Talk, "The Washington Aqueduct and Cabin John Bridge".

Every Wednesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. English Country Dance. Live music. No experience or partner needed. Sponsored by Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

CLASSIFIED ADS

KIDDIECOOKS: A cooking class for children ages 5-10. 8-week sessions beginning Feb. 11. Summer international cooking camps—July 19-23 and July 26-30 from 12:30-3:30 and Aug. 2-6 and 16-20, from 9:30-12:30. Call Angie for more information. 301-320-7714, angelazeidenberg@aol.com

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 50 characters or fewer. Display ads: \$4 per column inch. Ads may be left with or mailed to the editor at 38 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 9—8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall
Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

TOWN FRUSTRATED IN ATTEMPT TO GET BOLLARDS ON MACARTHUR

By David Chitwood

Mayor Beers described at the Jan. 12 meeting the town's years-long inability to get the county to erect bollards to separate MacArthur Blvd. from the bicycle path, especially in the turn-around area at the end of Goldsboro Rd. These have been installed at some locations in Cabin John.

She said that the town needs to be more active in getting the bollards erected, although several letters have already been sent. Councilmember Tim Maloy agreed to take some digital photographs and send them to the county immediately.

Town resident Betsy Platt asked if the town council would be willing to contribute to the cost of the bollard project. The Mayor said that although possible, the area is not town property. Councilmember Dan Macy indicated that he did not believe that the town should contribute funds for a project that is the county's responsibility.



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EVENTS AT GLEN ECHO PARK

At Adventure Theatre:

ANASTASIA KRUPNIK—to Feb. 15
 THE RED ROSE (BEAUTY AND THE BEAST)—Feb. 28-
 Apr. 4
 \$7—301-320-5331

At The Puppet Co. :

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT—to Feb. 22
 \$6—301-320-6668. In the new theater!

Dances every Friday, Saturday & Sunday eves., and Sunday
 afternoon.

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2003

Charlie Wells (snow shoveling)	\$60.00
EE Lyons Construction (Oxford Rd. patch)	\$1,800.00
Knopf & Brown (legal)	\$3,271.18

BLOOD DRIVE THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, IN CABIN JOHN

The first community Blood Drive of 2004 will take place on Sunday, February 1 at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. Please contact Cabin John resident Karen Melchar (ardenroad@mac.com, 301-229-9049) if you are willing and able to donate blood.

The time slots (done at 15 minute increments) are from 10:00 a.m.- 3:45 p.m. You can also just drop in. The need for blood is always urgent, and it is especially true in the winter when colds and sore throats reduce the number of donors

Eligibility - People who can donate are, in general: people in good health, 17 years or older, and weighing at least 110 lbs. People who can't donate are: (1) people who received a tattoo one year prior to the date of donation, (2) most people taking antibiotics, (3) most people taking blood thinners, (4) most people who are not feeling well, have a cold, or sore throat, (5) people who have a fever at the time of donation, (6) people who have been in England for a total combined period of 3 months from Jan. 1, 1980 to the present, and (7) people who have been in Eastern or Western Europe for a total combined time of 6 months or more since Jan 1, 1980, (8) people who have had cancer, (9) people who have traveled recently to certain South American countries where malaria exists

PARK NEWS

Phase IV of the park renovation will begin soon and will include the caretaker's cottage, the Crystal Pool, and the first aid building. Construction should begin on the yellow barn and tower, the carousel, and the Adventure Theatre at the end of the summer.

A park police trailer will be located near the sites of the bumper car pavilion and the hall of mirrors. The trailer will serve as a place where police servicing the park district property on the Maryland side of the river can stop to do paperwork. It will not permanently house police.

The Puppet Company expects to move its new space before its next production, "The Jungle Book" opens on Feb. 28.

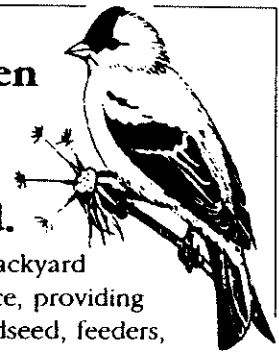
--David Chitwood

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PARK? PARK WANTS TO COPY THEM

Glen Echo Park has acquired some mementos from the daughter of a long-time park manager. Site Manager Karen Pittleman requests that anyone with old photographs of the park contact her at 301-492-6663 her. They will be electronically scanned and then returned to the owner (if so desired.)

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