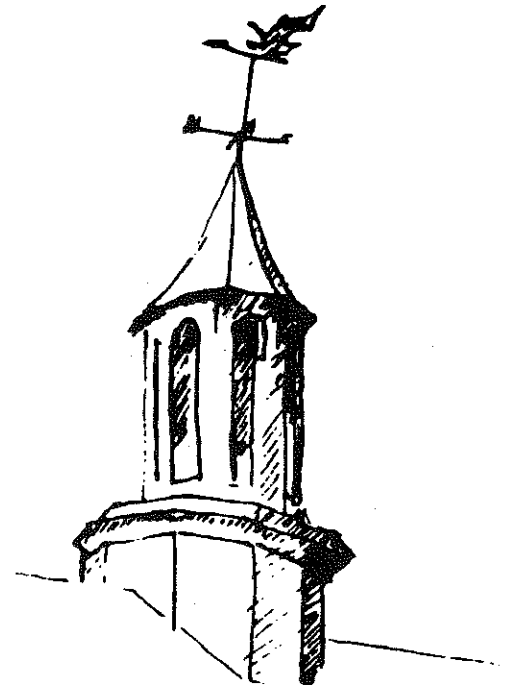


The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



February 2005

PROPERTY OWNERS SHOCKED BY INCREASED ASSESSMENTS By Carlotta Anderson

Glen Echo property owners were astounded last month when they received property tax assessments that in some cases actually doubled the previous assessment on their homes. County-wide, the average increase was nearly 70 percent, according to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation.

Many shocked homeowners have thought of appealing the new assessment of their property; others are just fuming.

But there are some facts that might cause them to cool down a bit:

- Assessments—which are reviewed every three years—are intended to reflect the true market value of your property. Ask yourself—do you think you could sell your house for the new market value assessment? If so, the assessment is not incorrect.
- Although the new market value is phased in over a three year period, by law **your taxes cannot rise more than 10 percent per year**. That means that even if your house is assessed at \$800,000, you will not be paying taxes based on that amount, but only 10 percent more than you paid this year. At 10 percent per year it will take many, many years before your taxes will reach the current assessment, and assuming property values continue increasing, they will never reach it.
- There are special programs for those who are visually

impaired, earn below \$30,000 per year, or are disabled veterans. For example, if your gross household income is \$20,000 and your net worth, excluding the value of your property, does not exceed \$200,000, your tax limit will be \$840 per year.

—continued on page 3

**You are Invited to a
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY**

**Saturday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall**

**Potluck Supper with Corned Beef provided
Please bring vegetables or dessert suitable for an Irish
dinner**

Limericks requested from all attendees

—PLEASE RSVP!!—

Volunteers Needed

To RSVP or volunteer call Kate Horwitz at 301-320-2171

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.

EDITOR Carlotta Anderson 301-229-3748
email: Carlotta.ra@verizon.net

ASST. EDITOR Diana Hudson-Taylor

REPORTERS Steve Matney

DISTRIBUTION Brockie and Jane Stevenson

Charlie Wells

Maire Hewitt

Isabelle Umpleby

Leland Schwartz

CIRCULATION Susan Grigsby

Next Deadline February 25

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*

WINTER'S SNOWFALL HAS BEGUN

A two to three inch snowfall on Saturday, Jan. 22 delighted many children and adults. Sledding was particularly active on Yale Ave., which by design remains unplowed. Some residents got out their cross-country skis, and others enjoyed tromping through relatively light snow on a day when a blizzard had been forecast.

Almost all residents kept their cars off the river side of University Ave. and the streets were nicely plowed. Also, most residents were prompt about shoveling snow off all sidewalks that abut their property, not just the section they want to use to get to their cars.

Unfortunately, roads were clear by Monday, so children had to go to school and parents and others to work as usual.

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

Town Office:301-320-4041

Town Office Fax:301-320-3639

E-Mail: townhall@glenecho.org

**6106 Harvard Avenue or Box 598, Glen Echo, MD
20812**

**Office Hours: Tuesday, noon-3:00 p.m. and Friday,
9:00 a.m.- noon or by appointment**

MAYOR

Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eve Arber 301-263-0016

Tim Maloy 301-229-4745

Dan Macy 301-229-2122

Nancy Long 301-332-3823

CLERK-TREASURER

Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

Paid Advertisement



Glen Echo Baptist Church

Serving Glen Echo families since 1939

Dr. Ed Curtis, Th.D., Pastor

Bringing God's Truth to Life

Sunday School 9:30 am

Sunday Services 11:00 am

Wednesday Activities 7:00 pm

Mid-Week Bible Study . . . Vassar Circle

ASSESSMENTS (FROM PAGE 1)

- Legally blind persons may receive an exemption of \$15,000 of full value assessment reduction.
- Disabled Veterans with a 100 percent disability and their surviving spouses may receive a complete exemption from real property taxes.
- Remember also that you pay taxes on the basis of tax rates. These may go up or down, although the latter is a rarity. However, last year the Town Council reduced Glen Echo's real estate tax rate from \$.14 per \$100 of assessed valuation to \$.13 per \$100 for the portion of overall property taxes that is paid to the town.

If you wish to appeal your assessment, you must do so by the date listed on your assessment notice, which is 45 days from the date of the notice. The fax number is 301-610-4796.

If you wish to apply for the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program on the basis of your income, you must do that by Sept. 1 and repeat the process annually. There is also a Homestead Tax Credit Program and a Property Tax Deferral. You must also apply for the exemption for blind persons and disabled veterans.

To get the necessary forms for these applications, you may call the assessment office at 301-279-1355, write the State of Maryland Dept. of Assessments & Taxation at 300 W. Preston St., Baltimore, MD 21201, or access their web site at: <http://www.dat.state.md.us>.

Property assessments will be at the head of the agenda at the Feb. 14 Glen Echo Town Council meeting. Everyone interested should use this opportunity to discuss the matter.



KEPLER FRAMING
Ritch Kepler
 Certified,
 Professional Picture
 Framers Association

25 Years in Business
 Framing for Home & Office
 All Major Credit Cards

Cabin John, MD
320-0248

COUNCIL GETS UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT INSURANCE TRUST

By Steve Matney

Jon Burrell, Executive Director of the Local Government Insurance Trust, presented Glen Echo with a Membership Award in recognition of the town's 10-year anniversary as a member-partner of LGIT at the January Town Council meeting.

He also gave the council some background information on LGIT and answered questions at the January meeting on how the organization can be useful to municipalities.

LGIT is a non-profit organization, created by special act of the Maryland legislature. Members of its board are all local officials.

Mr. Burrell noted that although the organization used to offer health insurance, it has discontinued the program due to the pool not being able to keep up with price increases.

LGIT conducts a yearly hazard review, has its own legal staff, and offers a training grant program, Mr. Burrell said.


Its coverage includes public official liability and property, and could offer coverage of art objects owned by the town if the town wishes to have supplemental coverage.

RECYCLING TIPS

- Be sure to remove lids or caps from cans, glass bottles or plastic bottles
- Do not recycle yogurt containers
- Put newspapers in paper bags, not plastic bags

--Constance Macy

*Landscape Design • Installation • Decks
Retaining Walls • Maintenance • Hauling • Gutters*



HUGHES
LANDSCAPING

P.O. Box 498
 Cabin John, Maryland 20818

John Hughes
 301-589-6040

DANCE WITH DEANNA AGAIN AT LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTER

On Saturday, February 26, from 7:30-11:00 p.m., the Deanna Bogart Band is returning to the Clara Barton Community Center to blow the winter blues away!

This is an opportunity to do some serious dancing, mingling, and partying close to home, while at the same time supporting the local Community Center, located just off MacArthur Blvd. in Cabin John..

Last year the concert sold out early, so be sure to get your tickets in advance. Tickets are \$25/person, but once again the Friends of Clara Barton Community Center are hoping that a number of individuals will pay \$50 a ticket in order to cover the costs and raise a decent amount to fund new purchases and activities at the Community Center this year.

You must be 21 or over to purchase tickets and attend. Doors and bar open at 7:30 p.m., with music beginning at 8:00 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 trudibick@comcast.net for tickets. Feel free to make a donation even if you can't attend the festivities.

OLD, SIMPLE FURNITURE NEEDED FOR LOCKHOUSE 8

The Potomac Conservancy is planning to re-open Lockhouse 8 to visitors in April and is looking for contributions of "working class" furniture to furnish it. Furniture should be simple and appear appropriate for a lockhouse family of the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

Needed are chairs (not overstuffed); a long low three-shelf bookcase, or similar; small, foyer-type tables or end tables and display cases that volunteers could sit behind.

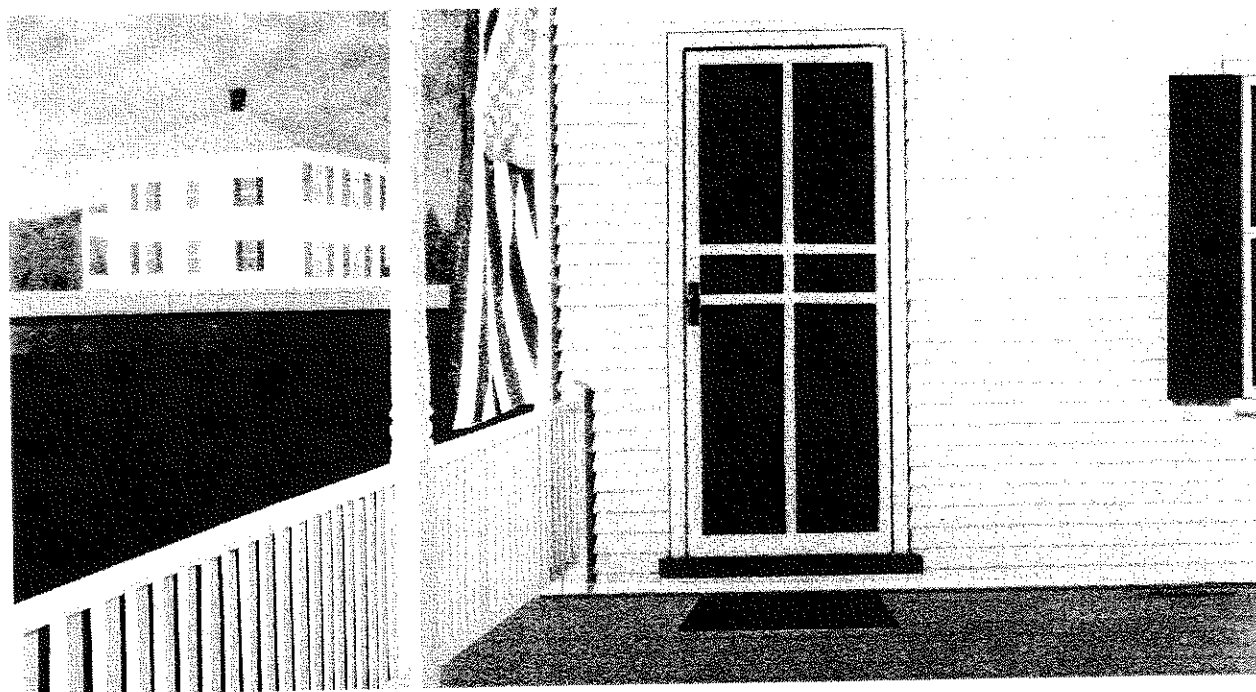
If you have anything that seems possible and that you would be willing to donate, please call Carlotta Anderson, 301-229-3748.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 14—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Property Assessments will be the first agenda item.



"Porches" is the most recent acrylic painting by A. Brockie Stevenson. It is based on the view from his front porch on Yale Ave. looking across at the Wilson's house at 7309 University Ave., a view he originally depicted in a drawing in 1997. The drawing was used in the 1998 Jane's Calendar, distributed through town by his wife, Jane. For the 36" x 66" painting the image was simplified and some dimensions changed. It was finished just in time for Brockie's show at Strathmore Hall last year.

CLASSIFIED ADS

BANISH HOUSEHOLD CLUTTER & SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE. Call Melanie Patt-Corner at "A Place for Everything" Household Organizing Service. 301-263-9482. Member National Association of Professional Organizers.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A KINDLY, DEPENDABLE SITTING for our 8-year-old twins. Driving a must. M-F 3-7:30 p.m. Call Melinda and Bill at 301-229-0807.

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.

GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

5 Vassar Circle

\$695,000



Eleanor

"Let's talk about what's happening up and down MacArthur Blvd."

301-907-7600

301-229-7990

www.EleanorBalaban.com



LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Wendy Marten's
7316 University Ave.*

Tuesday, February 22, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-320-9095

Sounds of Glen Echo Birds

By Frank Powers

Identifying often hard-to-see birds by sound, rather than sight, is accepted by the American Birding Association. In fact, bird songs and calls are usually the first clues to seeing and identifying a species that a birder learns to use. Listen for the sweet "O Peabody...Peabody...Peabody" whistled-song heard in our Glen Echo yards most winter mornings. That's a White-throated Sparrow, who summered in Canada and is now here rustling through your underbrush for food. The best tool for learning the sounds of birds is the CD/tape, "Birding by Ear," produced by Glen Echo's own Roger Tory Peterson.

Mobil[®]



KENWOOD MOBIL CENTER

5201 RIVER ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20816
PH: (301) 652-9527 FAX: (301) 652-1138

Michael Carrick
OWNER

Dick Spicer
SERVICE MANAGER

**AUTO REPAIR - FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
FACTORY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE**

BOOK SIGNING POSTPONED

The book signing for "Restoring the Glen Echo Park Carousel," a new book by Debbie Lange, has been postponed from its original Feb. 6 date. The rescheduled date will probably be in March.

BANNOCKBURN SWIM CLUB MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Bannockburn Swimming Club is located at the end of Laverock Lane (a block from the Bannockburn Club House) and offers a heated 25 m pool with 1-m board, an adjacent non-swimmer's "Ell" and a separate baby pool. The swim team is very active, there are swim lessons, and we have biweekly potluck dinners. The swimming season starts on the Memorial Day weekend and ends a few weeks after Labor Day.

If you are a new neighbor in Bannockburn, Glen Echo, or Cabin John, you may be entitled to a permanent membership. There are also seasonal memberships available. For details, please contact the membership chair, Hans Engler, email: h.engler@verizon.net, telephone: 301.229.0156.

Link to Life Assistant

Part-Time position available at Sibley Memorial Hospital. The Link to Life Assistant is responsible for clerical and installation support of the Link to Life program. Previous experience with installation techniques, equipment maintenance, and billing procedures helpful. Relevant experience in public contact field necessary with special emphasis or interest in geriatric care or gerontology. Previous office experience and appreciation of detail essential. Must provide own transportation to and from subscriber's homes.

If you are interested in learning more, contact:

Sarah Khan or Jenny Park.
Human Resources Department
5255 Loughboro Road, NW
Washington, DC 20016
Phone (202) 895-4750
Fax (202) 363-2677
E.O.E.

KIDS: MAKE THE BIRDS A SUET VALENTINE

Children are invited to make suet valentines to take home to their neighborhood birds on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 9:00 a.m. at the Wild Bird Center store at 6124 MacArthur Blvd., Bethesda, next to the intersection of MacArthur and Sangamore Rd. The cost for materials is \$10.

To reserve a place, please call the store at 301-229-2600.

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2004

Allied Printing (Echo)	\$ 194.72
Chapel Valley (Landscaping)	1175.00
M. Carter & M. Brafman (Gingerbread houses)	77.80



Cheese, imported and domestic ▼
▼ Organically-grown produce
Nuts, dried fruit, grains & beans sold in bulk ▼
▼ Health & bodycare, cruelty-free

Serving the community since 1975.

Bethesda Co-op

301-320-2530

6500 Seven Locks Rd., at MacArthur Blvd.

Mon.-Sat. 9-9, Sun. 9-7

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

January 10

Because Councilmembers Dan Macy and Tim Maloy were absent, there was **no quorum...**

Debbie Lange has donated a copy of her book, "Restoring the Glen Echo Park Carousel," to the Town. Her book signing date of Feb. 6 at the Town Hall has been cancelled. Another date will be set for March...

The Town has received a copy of the Resolution that the Senate of Maryland has adopted honoring **Glen Echo's 100th anniversary** as a municipality...

The Mohican Hills Citizens Assn. has asked the town to sign onto a letter regarding a proposed zoning text amendment aimed at **reducing the allowable height** of new houses...

--Steve Matney

AROUND TOWN

Willem Polak was honored in the Jan 05 *Washingtonian* magazine as a Washingtonian of the Year for his work in renovating a skating rink in Ward 7...

Malory Polak, a 10th grader at Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, made the fall-term honor roll at the school...

When the canal freezes, **ice skaters** should use caution and be sure the ice is at least four inches thick before stepping out on it. An ice skating hotline for the Great Falls area has a recorded message with advice for skaters. The number is 301-767-3707.

A small contingent of residents braved snow and sleet to attend the first performance of the **Glen Echo Film Festival** on Saturday, Jan. 29. They saw "Super Sized Me" and ate popcorn.

REMINDER

Last Friday of the month—**BULK PICKUP**--heavy or large quantity of discardables. There are no more special pickups. All large quantities of trash and heavy trash are picked up at this time.

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Monday, February 14, 8:00 p.m.—**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Saturday, February 26, 8:00 p.m. **GLEN ECHO FILM FESTIVAL**

Sunday, February 27.—2:00-5:00 pm. **POTOMAC VALLEY SCOTTISH FIDDLE CLUB DANCE**

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.

Enjoy wildlife at your window



- Feeders
- Birdbaths
- Seed
- Nest Boxes
- Gifts
- Free Birdwalks



Wild Bird Center

Bonfield's Garage Historic Site
6124 MacArthur Blvd. • Bethesda
(301) 229-2600

Digital Handyman, Inc.

Personal Computer Solutions

240.447.6535

Andy Malmgren
Glen Echo, MD



On-site computer installation and repair

Virus removal
Maintenance
Upgrades
Networks
Training
Security

GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

EVENTS AT THE PARK

DANCES HELD WEEKLY IN THE RENOVATED SPANISH BALLROOM:

Friday Night Dances—contras, square and country mixers. Beginners welcome. \$7. 8:30-11:30

Saturday Night Dances—swing, cajun/zydeco, salsa. \$12. 9:00-midnight

Sunday Afternoon Tea Dances—waltzes, swing, cajun/zydeco. \$7 or \$10. 3:30-6:00

Sunday Night Dances—contra, square, folk. For experienced dancers. 7:30-10. \$9

ADVENTURE THEATRE

Hyronomous A. Frog (The Frog Prince)

Through February 20

Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$7.00 Call 301-320-5331

THE PUPPET THEATRE

Clowning Around

Through February 20

Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30

Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00

Tickets: \$7.00 Call 301-320-6668

YELLOW BARN STUDIO & GALLERY

Individual and group art exhibits can be viewed every Saturday and Sunday from noon-5:00 p.m.

Exhibits change weekly.

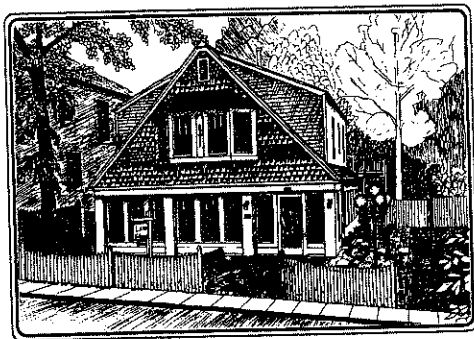
(The Gallery is temporarily located on the third floor of the main arcade building.)

PARK NEWS

- The Park is trying to acquire an original trolley to place in front of the Park, interim site manager Kym Elder told the Glen Echo Town Council last month.
- The Park is still working on acquiring the section of the trolley right of way that runs alongside the front of park land
- Plans for use of the balance of the money available for renovation include completing the Arcade building, painting the carousel by April 15, and starting work on rebuilding the Yellow Barn.

--Steve Matney

LAW & ASSOCIATES, INC.
(301) 229-8500



Heather Cottage

Financial Planning



1st Choice

Professional Painting & Home Improvements

301-229-9100

www.go1stchoice.com

MHIC 39468 Insured