

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



January 2004

TOWN CONSIDERS LEASING PROPERTY FOR INN PARKING

By Tom Helf

The Glen Echo Town Council will probably decide at its January meeting whether to permit The Irish Inn at Glen Echo to valet park cars on property owned by the town. The property in question is the vacant lot immediately next to the Law & Associates property at 6111 Tulane Avenue.

An old basketball court currently sits on part of the lot. The remainder consists of green open space that has historically been used during larger park events like the Folk Festival.

Chris Hughes, the new owner of the Inn, formally requested at the December council meeting that the town agree to lease the vacant lot to the Inn. As a basis for his request, Mr. Hughes stated that the renovated Inn will have a seating capacity of 191 inside and 26 on the deck, but only enough space to park 45 cars.

He had previously brought up the subject at the November council meeting, after which the town requested guidance from the town attorney.

Mr. Hughes added that the town property would only be used for valet parking (for 60-65 cars), with ingress and egress on Tulane Avenue. He also said that the lot would only be needed in the evenings, and that he would relinquish the lot on those occasions when it was needed for town use.

Town residents Isabelle Umpleby and Robert Radzyminski, who live on Oberlin Ave. adjacent to the vacant lot, expressed their concern that use of the lot for Inn parking

IRISH INN AT GLEN ECHO OPENS NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Irish Inn at Glen Echo was scheduled to open on New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31, according to owner Chris Hughes. The former restaurant at the Tulane Ave. site closed exactly one year ago.

The 1930s building has undergone substantial renovations in the past year. The bar area and downstairs bathrooms have been substantially expanded and upstairs bathrooms have been added. Structural improvements were also necessary.

The Inn will be open Tuesday-Sunday for lunch from 11:00-2:00 and for dinner from 5:00-10:00. The upstairs and downstairs dining rooms will offer moderately priced Continental cuisine. The bar area will also have tables and a separate "pub grub" menu.

Sunday brunch will also be offered and eventually there will be afternoon tea on Wednesday and Saturday.

—continued on page 4

THE ECHO

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♻️ Printed on recycled paper

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

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20812**

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ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

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<http://www.glenecho.org>



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TOWN PROPOSES NEW SETBACK ORDINANCE

By Tom Helf

Acting to close an obscure loophole in the Montgomery County Zoning Code, the Glen Echo Town Council introduced an ordinance at its December meeting that would increase the required setback for certain new residential construction in town.

Copies of the proposed ordinance have been circulated to each household.

Currently, the Town of Glen Echo building requirements follow the county code with respect to setbacks. Specifically, single-family residences in town must be set back at least 25 feet from any street.

However the county setback limitations have an unusual exception: in the case of a corner lot, if a house is constructed on such a lot so that it faces a street that has no other houses on that side of the block that also face the street, the setback for the house only needs to be 15 feet from that street.

The County Code also provides that municipal corporations like the Town of Glen Echo are permitted to impose additional or stricter setback requirements for single-family residences than those provided in the County Code.

The impetus for the ordinance amendment is the vacant lot at the northwest corner of Columbia and Yale Avenues. When Glen Echo was subdivided in 1891, this piece of land was shown facing Columbia Ave. However, there is no restriction that prevents a builder from facing it on Yale Ave.

Meridian Homes, a residential builder, has purchased

the property, and proposes to construct a large house facing Yale Ave. with only a 15 foot setback. Apparently, this lot falls within the 15 foot exception in the County Code because the only other house built on that side of Yale Ave. fronts on University Ave.

The ordinance introduced at the December meeting would eliminate the 15 foot setback exception, and require that all single-family residences constructed in the future on corner lots (including the lot at issue) be required to be set back at least 25 feet from the street.

The Town Charter requires that once an ordinance is introduced, the town residents are provided thirty (30) days notice before the ordinance is officially acted upon. For this reason, the town subsequently circulated the language of the proposed ordinance to town residents, and intends to hold a public hearing and vote on the ordinance at its January 12 meeting.

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Marlyss Bloom's
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Wednesday, January 28, 8:00 p.m.

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INN PARKING (FROM PAGE 1)

might cause damage to the property and have a negative impact on drainage. They also said they'd like to keep the lot open space, noting that there are few remaining open green spaces in town.

Resident Gloria Levin suggested that parking on the lot be approved on a trial basis, and Ms. Umpleby said she would support a trial basis to see if it would improve the traffic problem.

In response, Mr. Hughes said he would take whatever steps were necessary to limit damage to the lot and impact to neighboring properties, perhaps by installing some type of protective ground surface as well as trees or other screening.

Councilman Dan Macy requested that the council meet in a closed session to discuss the matter further. This session was held immediately after adjournment of the December meeting.

Mayor Beers subsequently reported that the council decided to pursue the possibility of leasing the vacant lot, subject to numerous restrictions, and with the right to cancel the lease on 30 days written notice.

She added that the Council will endeavor to determine a fair rental price for the space, and enter into negotiations with Mr. Hughes to reach an agreement, which will be drafted by Mr. Knopf. This will probably be discussed and acted upon at its January meeting.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FREE—HATE TO TRASH. A one-year-old full size bed frame. Call Jane or Brockie. 301-229-3578

BRAND NEW 6-string Lauren student guitar for sale. In box. \$80. 301-229-8805. Nadrad@msn.com.

TEACHER LIVING IN GLEN ECHO looking for a small office space. Will pay. Up to negotiation. Please call 301-229-7919.

VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS. We're looking for players of any age, gender, or skill level for fun, informal games. We play every Thursday night from 7:30-9:30 in the gym at Bannockburn Elementary. Come by and check us out, or call Mark for more information. 301-229-7041.

THREE SKIRTS, new. Calvin Klein, Banana Republic, Gap. All size 12. \$35 for all. Call 301-229-8805.

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, January 12—8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall
Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda



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TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

December 8

Oxford Road continues to present issues to the town. Councilman Tim Maloy suggested that the town re-visit the issue of installing a **speed bump on Oxford** to slow down traffic going to the park.

The town also will continue to monitor the mysterious **pooling of water** at the corner of Oxford and University Aves., which poses a hazard to motorists when temperatures dip below freezing.

The town hall has experienced a **leaking roof** in the alcove leading to the elevator, above the furnace room. The town council unanimously voted to have the roof repaired.

--Tom Helf

Paid Advertisement



Glen Echo Baptist Church

Serving Glen Echo families since 1939

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Sunday Services 11:00 am

Wednesday Activities 7:00 pm

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Children 6-10 years old . . . Annex *

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HOLIDAY BREAKFAST A CHEERY EVENT

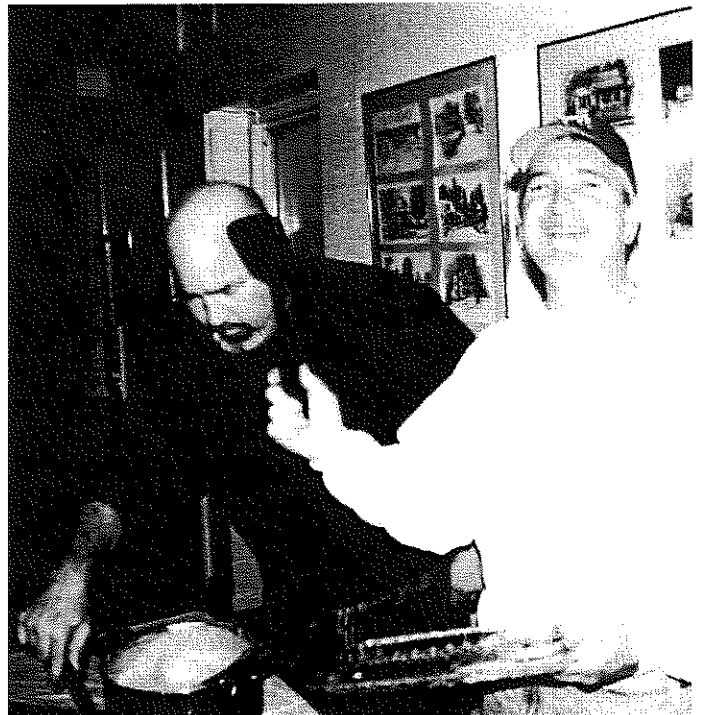
Glen Echo's annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast was a roaring success on the morning after an early blast of winter distributed four inches of snow on town streets, houses and trees. The scene on Dec. 14 was festive as muffled residents wearing boots trudged through the snow to the warmth of a community party.

Some 70 Glen Echoans enjoyed pancakes flipped by Tim Maloy and Willem Polak along with 100 sausages cooked by Jan Shaut. There was also smoked salmon provided by Betsy Platt, a casserole from Eleanor Balaban, fried potatoes from Elaine Bodlander, and wraps from Anne Bayer.

The children were delighted with the opportunity to decorate 32 gingerbread houses of graham crackers constructed in advance by Madeleine Carter and Michelle Helf. They were held together with mortar frosting and had pretzel window frames.

Music was provided by a CD of holiday songs sung by Maggie Sansone and provided by Jamie Platt, who set up the sound system.

Betsy and Jamie Platt helped Cathie Polak set up and Willem Polak, Dan and Constance Macy, and Jim Anderson took care of the clean up.



Tim Maloy and Willem Polak flipped pancakes.

MISSING ECHO?

If you don't get an *Echo* on time, please call Jane Stevenson, 301-229-3578, who is in charge of delivery. You can also pick up an extra copy at the postoffice by asking a clerk for one.

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.

Residents should shovel the snow off the sidewalks alongside their properties so that pedestrians can walk in safety. This should be done promptly because unshoveled snow often freezes and remains on the ground for days.

SAFE DRAIN CLEANER

Most drain cleaners contain chemicals that are corrosive and toxic to the environment. However, the overuse of metal snakes to clean pipes can damage them.

The Montgomery County Recycler recommends using vinegar and baking soda instead, followed by boiling water. Used regularly, this treatment helps keep drains clear of debris that causes clogs.

NEW BABY ON PRINCETON

Alexis Feringa and D.J. Johnson welcomed a baby girl to their Princeton Ave. household on Dec. 26 at 10:44 p.m. Geneva Feringa Johnson joins brother Renz, who is 18 months old.

The almost-Christmas baby, to be known as Gevvie, weighed in at Sibley Hospital at six pounds, ten ounces, and measured 20 and a half inches in length.

Mother, baby and the whole family are happy and healthy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LOCKHOUSE 8

The Potomac Conservancy is recruiting a cadre of "Lockkeepers" to assist next spring as docents at its Lockhouse 8 Learning Center.

Lockkeepers will be responsible for staffing the Lockhouse on weekends and evenings, distributing literature, answering questions, and assisting with other interpretive tasks.

Volunteers will be asked to make a minimum six-month commitment. Training will be provided. This is the perfect opportunity for history buffs and those who enjoy people.

Conservancy staff will be organizing a 2004 orientation meeting in mid-January.

To sign up, contact Matt Berres, Director of Community Action, at berres@potomac.org.

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John Hughes
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AROUND TOWN

Many, if not all, Glen Echo residents did not receive any mail for a day or two in the week before Christmas. **Delivery of mail to Glen Echo households** is not the responsibility of the Glen Echo Post Office, but comes via a carrier based at the Westlake Post Office in Bethesda. Anyone wishing to complain about the service is advised to write the Postmaster at Westlake Post Office, Bethesda, MD 20817.

All **trash cans are being removed** from Montgomery County parks as part of a cost-saving measure. Similar "Carry-in, Carry-out" programs have already been implemented in Maryland's state parks and the National Park Service's C&O Canal National Historical Park. The new measures will reduce the amount of waste carried to landfills and use public dollars in a more efficient way.

Another county cost-saving measure has been the **discontinuation of five Metrobus routes**, including the N7, which ran from the Glen Echo Shopping center to the Federal Triangle Metro station in Washington, D.C. Fares on these routes only covered from 5-20 percent of each route's operating expenses. They were cut on Dec. 28.

TRASH, RECYCLING PICKUP PROBLEMS?

Call Waste Management directly at 301-340-0774.
Ask for Customer Service



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OPEN HOUSE AT CLARA BARTON SITE

Every half hour from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, rangers and volunteers will discuss a different disaster at which Clara Barton was able to offer aid to the victims.

The disasters include the Johnstown Flood of 1889, the Galveston Hurricane of 1900, the Spanish-American War in 1898 and the Butler, Penn. typhoid fever epidemic of 1903-04.

The event is free and all ages are welcome.

REPORTING STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

If you see a street light out on a wooden pole in Glen Echo, you should notify Pepco, which is responsible for replacing it. To report the outage, call 1-877-737-2662, with the number, which appears on a metal plate on the pole, and the location of the pole..

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



Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

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. Forexperienced dancers. 7:30-10. \$9

ADVENTURE THEATRE

Anastasia Krupnik

January 10-February 15

Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$7.00 Call 301-320-5331

PARK NEWS

Glen Echo Park Site Manager Karen Pittleman reported at the December Town Council meeting that Phase 3 of the park renovation is effectively finished.

The playground slide has been removed temporarily while the adjacent area is re-graded, and will be re-installed by the spring.

Ms. Pittleman added that the remaining two phases of park renovation probably will not begin until the fall of 2004. The park will look into tweaking the new blue fluorescent Glen Echo Park sign so that it does not remain illuminated throughout the night.

--Tom Helf

THE PUPPET THEATRE

The Velveteen Rabbit

Through February 22

Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30

Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00

Tickets: \$6.00 Call 301-320-6668

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

November, 2003

Allied Printing (Echo)	\$202.19
Chapel Valley Landscaping	\$1,175.00
Dennis Alexander (legal)	\$500.00

(A full accounting of all bills paid and payments received is available as part of the town council minutes.)

TRASH/RECYCLING COLLECTION TIMES

Tuesday & Friday--all trash, except heavyweight objects.

Tuesday--recyclables, including plastic, metal and glass. Newspapers tied or in paper grocery bags.

Wednesday--garden refuse, cut into four-foot lengths and tied, placed in compostable leaf/grass bags, or in a large trash container labeled "Recycling" and used only for yard waste.

Last Friday of the month--heavy or large quantity of discardables.

If you have any trash or recycling pick up problems call Waste Management directly at 301-340-0774 and ask for Dispatch.