

# The Echo

The Town of  
**GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND**  
Chartered, 1904



January 2005

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## **PARK NEEDS MORE MONEY TO FINISH RESTORATION**

By Jerry Bodlander

The remaining reconstruction work at Glen Echo Park will push the overall cost of the project to roughly four-and a half million dollars more than originally projected.

Katie Boerner of the Glen Echo Park Partnership told the town council last month that three and half million dollars remain from the original 20 million dollars. But she says construction costs have risen sharply since the original cost estimates were made.

The major work that remains includes the Yellow Barn and tower, the rest of the arcade building and the outside of the carousel. She estimates eight million dollars will be needed to finish the work as originally conceived.

A committee of federal, state and county officials oversees the construction project, she said, and it will decide what to do.

Ms. Boerner told council members that preliminary discussions have the Yellow Barn and the arcade as the top priorities. She says the officials may realize there won't be enough money to do both, but it is hard to tell which is seen as more important.

She said there are arguments to be made for both projects, noting the Yellow Barn is in "terrible" shape, while

the arcade is half-finished and houses the park's longest-running tenant. She said County Executive Doug Duncan has not ruled out looking for additional money to help the project.

In addition, National Park Superintendent Audrey Calhoun is looking for ways to come up with money to help with the carousel project, estimated to cost about 400-thousand dollars.

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## **GLEN ECHO FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS SATURDAY, JAN. 29**

The first in a series of films to be shown at the Glen Echo Town Hall for townspeople will take place on Saturday evening, Jan. 29, at 8:00 p.m. The film to be shown will be announced in a special flyer distributed to town homes.

The show is free and popcorn and beverages will be available.

Glen Echo's 2005 Film Festival is being organized by Town Councilman Dan Macy.

## THE ECHO

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♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

### TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND 20812

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20812**

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Nancy Long 301-332-3823

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Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

#### TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

## 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.



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## OWNER WANTS ZONING CHANGE FOR SYCAMORE STORE

By Jerry Bodlander

A local architect who wants to remodel and restore the former Sycamore Store as his office last month asked the town council for its support for his venture. Dean Brenneman, who said he has been involved in historic preservation for 15 years, has already bought the store.

He asked the town to support his push to amend the current zoning law so he can operate his residential remodeling business out of the building.

Mr. Brenneman says he's fallen in love with the building and doesn't want the memories it represents "to slip away." He cautions, however, that the building is in very bad shape and needs someone to "take care of it and treat it right."

The building is now zoned for residential use. It lost its "grandfathered" right to be a commercial building when the store closed in 1995.

Mr. Brenneman said he is proposing a carefully worded amendment which provides that in special circumstances the building can be used for professional purposes. He said he doesn't know of any other property that would qualify under the tight wording, though one may exist.

Mr. Brenneman said it would be very hard to use the building as a residence, noting that the property has no front or side yard, and the face of the building is the property line.

He said if his proposal isn't approved, he plans to sell the store. "I don't want to be the guy that tears down the Sycamore store," he said. Mr. Brenneman said the county's historic preservation commission has already agreed that the building should be designated as "historic" on the county master plan.

He is planning a presentation to the local community on his proposals at the Church of the Redeemer on Jan. 10th at 8 p.m.

Council members expressed support for the proposal but said they want to see the wording of the amendment before formalizing that support. Mr. Brenneman said that so far Mohican Hills and Sycamore Island community groups are supporting his proposal.

## CENTENNIAL ART SHOW ATTRACTS SCORES OF VISITORS

Last month's first art show devoted entirely to paintings of the Town of Glen Echo was a great success, with 38 works of art submitted by different artists hung on the walls of the Town Hall.

The hall was crowded with visitors at the opening night reception on Friday, Dec. 17. Art lovers continued visiting the afternoons of the following weekend, and seven paintings were eventually sold. Many town residents enjoyed seeing their own homes as portrayed by artists whom they had earlier observed sitting before easels in front of their houses.

In addition, \$380 worth of Walking Tour booklets and Glen Echo T-shirts were sold at the show.

The Centennial art show was organized by Jim and Carlotta Anderson and Nancy Long, with expert assistance from Bonnie Lundy, a member of the faculty of Glen Echo Park's Yellow Barn studios.

Many residents volunteered helped with the show in various capacities. They included Susan Grigsby, Debbie Sachs, Mike and Isabel Brintnall, Allegra Wilson, and Andrea and Steve Matney.

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 10—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda





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## NOVEMBER ELECTION RESULTS FROM BANNOCKBURN SCHOOL POLLS

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Eligible Voters voting | 72% |
| Kerry/Edwards          | 76% |
| Bush/Cheney            | 23% |
| Mikulski               | 80% |
| Pipkin                 | 19% |
| Van Hollen             | 81% |
| Floyd                  | 19% |
| Cox                    | 82% |
| Lee                    | 18% |
| Abrams                 | 48% |
| Lange                  | 52% |
| Ervin                  | 53% |
| Fishman                | 47% |

-Madeleine Sigel

## CAROUSEL RESTORATION BOOK, TALK AT TOWN HALL FEB. 6

"Restoring the Glen Echo Park Carousel," a book with detailed illustrations and photos of how the carousel's animals were restored, will be featured in a talk and book signing by its author at the Glen Echo Town Hall on Sunday, Feb. 6 at 3:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend.

The book, produced by Wellesley Circle resident Debbie Lange, documents the overhaul of the Dentzel menagerie carousel over a 20-year period. Ms. Lange will discuss the story behind the restoration—how it came about, some of the interesting things restoration artist Rosa Ragan discovered about the carousel during the restoration, and how she did the restoration.

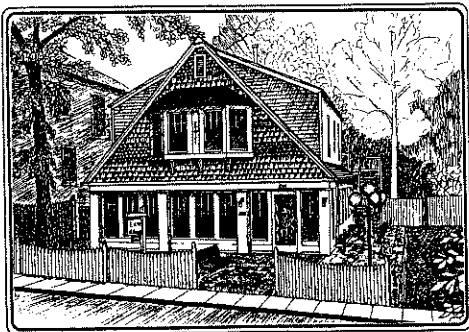
Ms. Lange will also talk about the book itself and how it came to be written. It contains over 500 full-color photographs depicting the artist's methods as well as a chapter on repair techniques and a photographic catalog of all finished animals and chariots.

The book is written for the general public to explain how a much-loved but abused ride was restored to become once again the magnificent functional art it was when it arrived at the park in 1921.

The book, which is priced at \$39.95, is sold at Glen Echo Park as well as from the author's website. All proceeds go to support the carousel.

This will be an appealing event for all lovers of the park carousel.

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## HEARTY EATING, CONVIVIALITY MARK PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Glen Echo's annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast last month was the same delightful event townspeople expected it to be. Residents joined neighbors to eat and converse on Saturday morning, Dec. 18, and, as the flyer announcement promised, to "start the day out right."

Children had a great time decorating graham cracker gingerbread houses put together by Michelle Brafman, Madeleine Carter, and Tate, Rex and Alec Graham.

Tim Maloy, Dan Macy and Willem Polak, and perhaps others, kept the pancakes rolling off the skillet.

Residents were asked to bring a new toy for Martha's Table and Tim Maloy delivered the toys there.

Set-up was provided the night before by Susan Grigsby, Peter Somerville and Debbie Lange, Andrea and Steve Matney, Julia Wilson, Alexis Feringa, and Jim and Carlotta Anderson.

The party was organized by Cathie Polak, with shopping done by Julia Wilson, Alexis Feringa, James Gibney and Jan Shaut.

*Photos by Eleanor Balaban*



Dan Macy flips pancakes for Steve Matney.



Tate Carter-Graham admires his gingerbread house.

### FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

**Saturday, January 8, 8:00 p.m., IRISH FIDDLING BY BRIAN CONWAY**

**Sunday, January 9, 3:30-5:30 p.m. FAMILY DANCE**

**Monday, January 10, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Saturday, January 29, 8:00 p.m. GLEN ECHO FILM FESTIVAL**

**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.

## AROUND TOWN

Harvard Ave. resident **John Morrow** won the **2004 Photo Contest** of "National Wildlife," the magazine of the National Wildlife Federation, with a photo of a female grizzly taken last summer in Alaska's Katmai National Park and Preserve. "I love photographing bears because they work me to death," he said. His photo was chosen from more than 2,000 entries submitted last year...

The **Native American Christmas pageant** held this Christmas Eve at the Church of the Redeemer in Fairway Hills was the cover story of the *Washington Post's* Maryland section on Dec. 23. The performance was partly inspired by the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian and was researched by Sara Begay, a Navajo staffer of the Museum, who follows traditional Navajo spiritual beliefs and is not herself a Christian. The dialogue included Navajo words and the program had a glossary and short history of the Navajo...

It may be cold outside-but **t-shirts** commemorating the town's centennial are still available at the town hall in both white and beige. All sizes are available. Adult T-shirts cost \$15; children's are \$10. Call 301-320-4041 to order one...

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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*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: 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

## POLICE ALERT

Montgomery County Police would like to warn residents about the recycling of holiday boxes and the message that it might portray to potential burglars. Leaving boxes outside that once contained televisions, stereo and home video systems, DVD players and recorders, computer systems, and video game units tell burglars what they could find inside the residence.

Police recommend that as a part of good home crime prevention, you take the time to make a record of the brand, model, and serial numbers of the equipment and put this information in a safe and secure place. When you put the boxes out, break them down and stack them so the writing is not visible or otherwise conceal the writing.



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# PARK NOTES


According to Glen Echo Park manager Karen Pittleman, a Park Service employee operating a leafblower was recently bitten by a small white dog being walked by its female owner on a retractable leash. The dog and owner then reportedly ran away. Because there was no way to ascertain if the dog had been inoculated for rabies, the employee had to endure a series of rabies shots. Ms. Pittleman asks that dog owners keep their pets leashed in the park, and keep their leashed pets under control...

Ms. Pittleman raised the possibility of reviving a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Tulane Ave. and the park service road. Apparently, there used to be one there. She asked if the town had any position on this. No definitive response from the town...

Three bids have been received on phase four of the park renovation (rehabilitating the Yellow Barn, stone tower, arcade, exterior of carousel, Crystal Pool entrance, and caretaker's cottage). The county is negotiating because the bids are too high.

--James Gibney

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 Sunday Services .....11:00 am  
 Wednesday Activities .....7:00 pm  
 Mid-Week Bible Study.... Yassar Circle

# TOWN COUNCIL NOTES December 13

Council member Nancy Long would like to continue the **centennial series**, possibly on an every other month basis. She still wants someone to discuss the American Indian culture that flourished in this area for so many years. She also believes there is an interest in hearing about what people in Glen Echo are doing.


**Maryland State Senator Brian Frosh plans to read a resolution** honoring the town's centennial during a meeting of the state senate, Councilwoman Long reported. He also plans to attend the next town council meeting to present that resolution to the council. She has also asked Sen. Frosh to see if he can get the town a gavel or other memento made from what is left of the historic Wye Oak tree which had to be cut down.

Councilwoman Nancy Long saw an article about the **municipal officials Hall of Fame** in the Maryland Municipal League Magazine. She noted that both she and Mayor Debbie Beers qualify for it and it would be nice for both of them to be recognized. The Hall of Fame honors people who have held elected office in a city or town for 20 years. Councilwoman Long plans to find out how she and Mayor Beers can have their names added to other municipal officials who've been honored this way.

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# Sounds of Glen Echo Birds

By Frank Powers

Living in an urban area, we're all used to the dominant sounds of cars whizzing through on nearby Clara Barton Parkway, or the occasional siren.

One sharp-eared Glen Echo neighbor heard something unique last summer. So she phoned me to ask if the harsh, clattering rattle she'd heard from her yard could possibly have been that of a Belted Kingfisher.

That's highly unusual for a hilltop locale like ours, but I'd actually seen one of these water-birds flying through over our yard before, so the answer was "yes." They breed -- and fish -- down on the C & O Canal.

## WINTER CLASSES BEGIN AT CLARA BARTON CENTER

The following classes begin in early January at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. They are sponsored by the Montgomery County Dept. of Recreation. For more information call the Center at 301-229-0010:

- Karate-Jujitsu**, Wed., 8:00-9:30 p.m., \$58, 10 sessions, ages 13 and up.
- Karate-Jujitsu**, Wed., 7:00-8:00 p.m., \$45, 10 sessions, ages 6-12
- Low Impact Aerobics**, Mon. & Fri., 9:15-10:15 a.m., \$83, 18 sessions, 16 and up
- Strength Training**, Tue., & Thur., 9:15-10:15 a.m., and 7:00-8:00 p.m., 20 sessions, \$92 each class, 16 and up.
- Wee Wanna Be**, Wed, 9:30-10:15 a.m., 10:15-11:00 a.m., & 11:15-noon, \$75 each class, 9 sessions, 2-5.
- Discovering Music for Toddlers**, Tue., 10:15-11:00 a.m., & 11:15-noon; Sat. 10:00-10:45 a.m. and 11:00-11:45, \$83 each class, 10 sessions, 1-3.
- Tiny Hands Crafts**, Thur. 10:15-11:00 a.m., \$55, 8 sessions, 2-6

# LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

at Jane Stevenson's  
6016 Yale Ave. (entrance across from post office)

Wednesday, January 12, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-229-3578

## FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

November 2004

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
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| PEPCO (street lights)         | \$607.42   |
| Waste Management              | \$2,448.10 |

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