

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



July 2006

HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHED; BOOK PARTY SAT. JULY 15

“Glen Echo: The Remarkable Saga of a Very Small Town” has been printed and will be available free to town residents at a book party on Saturday, July 15, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Photographs of the town and townspeople through its history will be on view and refreshments will be served.

The 172-page paperback, with 58 illustrations and a map of the town, was written by Carlotta Anderson and financed by a \$2,500 grant from the Maryland Historic Preservation Commission with the provision that the amount be matched by the Town of Glen Echo. The total cost of designing and printing 200 copies by Rockville Printing & Graphics was \$2,696.32. The town will be responsible for \$196.32 of the cost, but the volunteer work by the author can be used to fulfill the remaining amount of the town’s \$2,500 share.

Each property in town will be allotted one copy of the book. Any extra copies desired by residents will be priced at \$10. The price for those not resident in Glen Echo will be \$15. There will be a list of town addresses at the book party, which will be checked off when each book is picked up.

Those not able to attend the book party will be able to pick up a copy of the book later at the town hall during regular office hours.

DON'T MISS THE TOWN PICNIC

DATE: Sunday, July 16, 2006

TIME: 5:00 TO 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE: Upper Harvard/Town Hall
Rain location – Town Hall**

WHAT TO BRING:

Your own drinks (ice and cups as needed)

A salad, side dish or dessert for 8

Picnic blankets and outdoor entertainment for your kids

THE TOWN WILL PROVIDE:

Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Buns and Fixin’s

Plates and Plastic Ware

TO VOLUNTEER:

**Call 301-320-4041 or town-
hall@glenecho.org**

THE ECHO

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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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<http://www.glenecho.org>

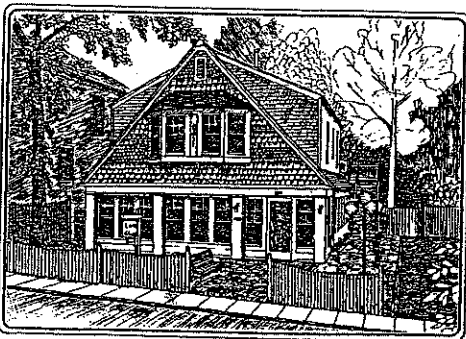
BUSINESS REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Do you operate a business in the Town of Glen Echo?

If so, you need to register your business with the State Department of Assessment and Taxation <http://www.dat.state.md.us>. This department will assess the value of the personal property used by your business.

You are required to pay personal property tax to the State, County, and Glen Echo on this assessed value. Corporations must file their charters with the state and renew these applications yearly when filing their returns.

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Financial Planning

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 10—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

MAYOR SAYS TOWN NEEDS TO SPEND MORE MONEY

By Rex Rhein

At the May 30th budget hearing, Mayor Debbie Beers noted that the Town's surplus has grown by nearly \$200,000 since last fiscal year, largely because about one third of the budgeted funds have not been spent. "My personal philosophy is not that we are taking too much in," she said. "I think the goal, as profligate as it may sound, this year is to spend the money, to actually provide services that we're collecting these taxes for."

In fact, real estate and personal property taxes account for only \$64,100 of the anticipated \$216,768 in total revenues that Mayor Beers forecast for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Most of the new money will come from Glen Echo's share of state (\$62,000), county (\$20,000) and highway (\$19,000) revenues, and from rentals for the Glen Echo Post Office (\$30,240), the Town Hall (\$3,000) and the Town-owned parking lot used by the Irish Inn at Glen Echo (\$3,600).

Also, because the surplus has grown in just 12 months from \$422,067 to \$610,286, the Town is now collecting "almost \$1,000 a month in interest", according to Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak.

The new fiscal-year budget, approved unanimously by the council at a formal meeting immediately after the hearing, would sop up more than \$100,000 of this surplus, partly by finally spending the \$75,000 budgeted last year -- but not spent -- for street paving, and another \$20,000 for sidewalk repairs. (None of last year's \$10,000 for sidewalk repairs was spent.) Further, the council raised to \$30,000 Mayor Beer's proposed \$7,000 for town hall improvements (primarily for the construction of a sound control system) to pay for a new furnace (for details, see Sophie Keefer's article in the May 2006 issue of *The Echo*, page 4).

Once again, the budget includes \$15,000 for an engineering survey of Town roads. The Town spent only \$775 for this purpose in the '05-'06 fiscal year. It is important to spend all of the highway revenues that the Town receives each year because "we certify every year that we're spending it on highways, and we are budgeting it for highways but it doesn't actu-

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night
at Forest Yang's
21 Wellesley Circle*

Thursday, July 20, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-229-1306

ally get spent," Mayor Beers said.

The council approved \$20,000 for construction of a stone entryway at the Harvard Avenue entrance. Mayor Beers said contractor Charles Cooley has been chosen to build the entryway but the project has to be cleared with both the county, which owns the land, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, which has responsibility for MacArthur Boulevard.

\$20,280 was approved for the Town payroll, plus \$1,500 for Social Security payments (FICA) and \$120 for workman's compensation insurance. These items support the Clerk-Treasurer's salary, which is slated to increase 4% in the new fiscal year. "At some point, I think we have to have a cap on how much farther this is going up," Mayor Beers said. "If we keep increasing it indefinitely, it will be up to \$100,000." Originally set at \$5,000 a year, the Clerk-Treasurer's salary was for half-time employment, but Cathie Polak works far more than 20 hours a week to handle the Town's affairs. For a 40-hour work week, \$20,000 is "not exorbitant right now," the Mayor said. "But we should keep it in mind."

Because legal costs are rising, the council added \$5,000 to Mayor Beers' proposed \$20,000 budget for this item. Water costs were also increased, from the proposed \$400 to \$1,000. Also, the \$8,000 the Mayor proposed for Town Hall maintenance was raised to \$10,000 to make sure enough was available to pay for a new sign outside. Clerk-Treasurer Polak said the sign was repaired two years ago for \$1,500, but "it's gotten much worse since" and should be completely replaced.

Last year, the council approved \$15,000 for "surveys," which was mainly to cover the cost of the furnace survey. However, only \$775 was spent, so the council approved another \$15,000 for next fiscal year. Community contributions for '06-'07 have been increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000. "We have obligations to the park and I'm sure other things will come up," Mayor Beers said.

—continued on p. 4

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BUDGET (FROM PAGE 3)

One of the smaller items in the budget -- \$2,700 for *The Echo*, a decrease from \$2,900 for the current fiscal year -- produced the most discussion. Councilmember Steve Matney said that including \$1,350 in income from advertising and subscriptions, along with the \$2,700 expense item, implies that *The Echo* is a "Town service" rather than an independent publication. "We're doing the books for it, which does not make it independent," he said. "Personally, I think there should be a bigger separation." For one thing, any lawsuits arising from articles in *The Echo* incur a liability for the Town, he said. Councilmember Dan Macy agreed with him.

Mayor Beers said that requiring *The Echo's* Editor, Carlotta Anderson, to carry this additional burden would make her job more difficult, and "my guess is that we would be sued anyway, even if we move it from one line to [another]". As for independence, "we ask it to publish things," she said. "Sometimes [Councilwoman] Nancy [Long] or I go over articles to make sure they're accurate. Carlotta emails me. I'm glad she does, sometimes, because some of the things that come out, first crack, I don't recognize the same description of the activity."

"Given her current status of responsibility of the Editor, I think the town's liability is relatively limited," said Councilmember Macy. "If we had a rogue Editor, I think we'd have a much more difficult situation, and at that point I could see the Town cutting off its support entirely... If it raises the issue of liability to the Town, the Town needs to take action to protect itself."

Mayor Beers said she believed such liability was covered by the Town's liability insurance. "If it isn't, we can get a rider," she said. "I don't think we're ever going to get away from this liability unless we totally divorce ourselves from *The Echo*, which nobody really wants to do," she said.

AROUND TOWN

Dan Macy was up at 5:50 a.m. the other morning, sending on valuable information to Glen Echo residents who have signed up for the town's Yahoo Group about options for Pepco's coming residential rate increase. If you have not already signed up for this group and want to join, send an email to Dan at Dan@Macy.com. Only residents of Glen Echo can belong. It is a wonderful opportunity to communicate with townspeople and to learn of events and offers that didn't make it into *The Echo*...

Who knew? One of the 20 most eligible bachelors in the Washington area lives right here in Glen Echo. According to *Washingtonian*, he is **Tom Manatos**, 26, a resident of Bryn Mawr Ave. and adviser to House minority leader Nancy Pelosi. A graduate of Whitman High School, he told the magazine that his dream date would be "a Redskins game with a girl who would enjoy it as much as I would."

The **Bannockburn community** is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its founding on June 23-25. The event will include a children's carnival, ice-cream social, founder's reminiscences, panoramic photo, and dinner-dance...

The Glen Echo Park May 20th gala, "**A Taste of Glen Echo**," drew 300 persons and raised \$82,700 at the park, according to the *Bannockburn Newsletter*. Among those honored at the event were **Irene Hurley**, who has been selling tickets at the Dentzel carousel since 1980. The 84-year-old Hurley is joined in running the carousel by her son, **Max**, who operates it and has written music for its pipe organ.

A **female seal point Siamese cat**, was found near Lock 6 and taken to the shelter of the Montgomery County Humane Society on June 3. She can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/gjsfg>

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GLEN ECHO FIRE DEPT. OUTLINES PROGRAMS FOR COUNCIL

By Kathleen Kotcher

The Town Council was visited at its June 12 meeting by Jeff Hearle, President of the Glen Echo Fire Department (GEFD). Mr. Hearle is spearheading a campaign to contact local community and civic associations to answer questions about the GEFD and establish contact with the community.

Hearle stated the number of fire department volunteers has grown, and there are a lot more classes for potential firefighters to pass since September 11. Many of the classes involve chemicals training and disaster management.

While the GEFD does receive county funding, the amount has remained unchanged since 1994. It is soliciting donations from corporate partners in order to expand the level of service. One of the areas involved is providing a higher level of service on the canal towpaths. The department currently has an all-terrain vehicle for emergency use on the towpath and is looking to add mountain bikes.

While they have the beginnings of the equipment, the largest obstacle is obtaining up-to-date maps.

Mr. Hearle discussed how the GEFD's emergency preparedness programs differs from other Montgomery County emergency programs such as Montgomery Alert.

Montgomery Alert is a county-wide program to handle disasters, but Mr. Hearle feels that issues such as geography (riverside), proximity to military installations, and infrastructure (the reservoirs) make the issues Glen Echo faces "different from the ones in Poolesville."

One example of a localized solution the GEFD is examining for emergency evacuation is using the towpath. In the event of an emergency that required people to move quickly when the roads were blocked or obstructed, people would walk down the tow path away from danger. He lamented there was not a lot of coordination between Montgomery Alert and other agencies.

The GEFD has developed a partnership with Glen Echo Park and has installed (and provides maintenance and

training for) Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) in the Spanish Ballrooms. With the GEFD managing the contracts, the department feels more confident these units will perform their life-saving functions more safely and reliably.

The GEFD is the first responder to emergencies in Glen Echo, but if it is currently on another call, the Cabin John Fire Department will step in, Mr. Hearle said. The GEFD service area is roughly the areas between Wilson to River to Little Falls Parkway to MacArthur Blvd.


In the case of river rescues, however, the Cabin John Fire Department has responsibility. GEFD is in charge of providing any land assistance (such as along the tow path and riverside) but Cabin John has the proper training, equipment and certifications for water rescues.

LEAKING SEWAGE DETECTED, REMOVED, BEHIND WELLESLEY

Several families along Wellesley Circle were troubled for months by a noxious smell emanating from the wooded area behind their houses. Several complaints to WSSC produced workmen who checked the sewer lines repeatedly and found no back-ups.

After a third call, workmen came equipped with a map of the underground sewer pipes and determined that there were three manholes in the woods, one of which was totally stopped up. It had been leaking raw sewage for months, possibly over a year.

The manhole was cleaned out in short order, but for several weeks the smell of an old stable lingered, since so much sewage had leaked into the woods. Now that the emanation has dissolved into the ground, the odor is back to what one resident described as "honeysuckle delite."



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TOWN FILM FESTIVAL IS FUN, FREE AND CONVENIENT

Residents who have not been taking advantage of the monthly film shown at the Glen Echo Town Hall are missing a wonderful opportunity to walk to an excellent movie, complete with popcorn and beverages, in the company of fellow residents—and it's all free!

Councilmembers Dan Macy and Steve Matney have been choosing and presenting the films the last Saturday of each month for more than a year for the benefit of Glen Echo residents. The last film, "The Best Years of Our Lives," was a classic, made soon after World War II concerning the civilian lives of three G.I.s, one seriously injured, after returning from the war.

Sometimes the films are recent productions, sometimes they are classics, but they are always chosen because of their outstanding reputations. All you have to do is show up sometime before 8:00 on the last Saturday of the month and you will be treated to an enjoyable evening with very little effort on your part!



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GLEN ECHO WELCOMES NEW BABY ON WELLESLEY

The Carter family of Wellesley Circle has a new member. **Kaleb Alan** was born May 10 at Sibley Hospital weighing in at seven pounds, eleven ounces. Both baby and mother **Amy** are doing well, and father **Alan**, and sister **Kaia**, 4-1/2, are enjoying the new arrival.

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

June 12

There seems to be no further progress regarding the replacement of the furnace. Councilmember Arber brought to the attention of council that the **weather vane** on the town hall was broken. She is currently conducting research into a replacement.

Councilmember Long also noted the **street sign** at the intersection of MacArthur Blvd and Harvard Ave is listing and she is concerned the pole has rusted at the bottom and needs replacement.

The **ownership of Oxford Rd.** continues to be under dispute. Glen Echo Park has still not responded to a letter from the town attorney.

Mayor Beers wants to continue to streamline the **ordinance review process**. She stated that while it has been improved, there are still too many steps and she is going to work to make the document more "automatic" for the next town council meeting.

The question of who is responsible for **post office maintenance** continues to be a source of confusion. It seems a lot of problems stem from the lack of availability to the building itself. The town only has access to the post office during post office hours, which makes any potential repair after hours impossible.

FEMA continues to send the town letters stating part of Glen Echo is on a flood plain and lack of compliance with a federal ordinance going into effect in September will prevent town residents from participating in **Federal Flood Plain Management programs**. However, Mayor Beers is unable to locate any map indicating where in Glen Echo there is a flood problem. It was her belief the areas FEMA is discussing were actually in the part of Glen Echo used for Clara Barton Parkway. Furthermore, she was under the impression Glen Echo had been removed from the flood plain in the 1980s. Mayor Beers and Councilmember Arber are continuing to look into the matter.

—Kathleen Kotcher

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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: 24th of each month.

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

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

Saturday, July 15, 5:00-7:00 p.m.—BOOK PARTY

Sunday, July 16, 5:00 p.m.—TOWN PICNIC

Saturday, July 29, 7:30 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.

DELIGHTFUL FREE CONCERT WITH TOM HELF'S BAND

Tom Helf's band, "Cravin' Dogs" will be performing on Wednesday, August 23, in the Strathmore Free Outdoor Concert Series tribute to Neil Young. Tom, a longtime resident of Oxford Rd., has been with the band for many years.

The concert at the new Strathmore concert complex on Wisconsin Ave. in North Bethesda begins at 6:30 p.m., and includes many other local artists, including The Yayhoos, Jon Carroll, Martha Hull, Deeme Katson, Mary Ann Redmond, Tommy Lepson, Bill Baker, Tom Miller, Rosslyn Mountain Boys, Cairo Fred, Dan Hovey, Ruthie & The Wranglers, and more. The concert will be outdoors in the Gudelsky Concert Pavilion Gazebo, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD 20852. Call (301) 581-5100 for information, or visit www.strathmore.org. For more information about Cravin' Dogs and free MP3 downloads, visit www.cravindogs.com.

Picnicing is encouraged and there is a wide variety of food to purchase.

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CRYSTAL POOL AREA MAY BE DEVELOPED FOR EXHIBITS

Discovery Creek has submitted a proposal to develop the former Crystal Pool area in Glen Echo Park and has received a positive response from the Glen Echo Park Partnership, which manages the park, *The Gazette* reported.

The idea is to construct a building with exhibits on desert, tropical and arctic climates, the paper reported. It might include fabricated snowstorms as well as tropical fish swimming alongside coral reefs. Discovery Creek estimates the building would cost \$8-10 million.

Discovery Creek already is situated on a large area of the park, where it offers outdoor nature experiences, craft programs, and summer adventure camps.

The area it seeks to build on is behind the old Crystal Pool façade and below the grassy area adjacent to the playground, which is used for a tent and performance stage during the annual folk festivals.

When the proposal was brought up at the Partnership board meeting in April, Glen Echo Mayor Debbie Beers was one of two negative votes. She said she voted "no" because Discovery Creek already has fenced in a large area of the park, which is only accessible to paying customers. She also objected to the fact that there has been no public hearing or environmental assessment of the impact of the plan on open space, parking, and traffic. She has requested that the town be given an opportunity to comment and have input on any decision.

REMAINS OF CHAUTAUQUA SHOPPING CENTER EXCAVATED

The foundation of an original 1891 Chautauqua structure has been uncovered during the demolition of the Yellow Barn at Glen Echo Park.

The long, three-story building, which abutted the still-standing Chautauqua tower at the entrance of the park, housed several stores and possibly the post office. There was a similar shopping center next to the other Chautauqua tower, which no longer exists.

Such items as stationery, soap and towels were sold there, according to Supervisory Park Ranger Joe Burns.

TOURS OF CAROUSEL, PARK ON JULY WEEKENDS

Carousel tours take place at Glen Echo Park on weekends in July starting at 10:30 a.m. They give visitors a closer look at the beautiful 1921 Dentzel carousel, explain how it was made and how it works. Hear about the civil rights protests and the inspiring story of how the Town of Glen Echo rallied together to save the carousel. At 2:00 p.m., tours lead visitors through the park to learn about its fascinating history and the current programs in arts, dance and children's activities. A 60-minute film documentary is shown at 4 p.m. and highlights the Park's 115-year history from a National Chautauqua Assembly to a premiere amusement park. Admission is free.

GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

6005 Princeton Ave.

\$625,000.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 2006

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