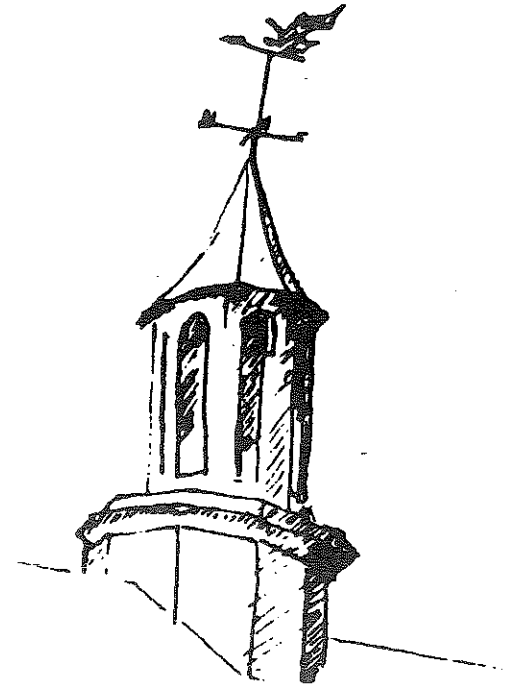


The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



June 2005

TROLLEY AGAIN STOPS AT GLEN ECHO PARK

By Carlotta Anderson

As a tribute to the much-loved trolleys that ran from D.C. to Glen Echo until 1960, a trolley car again is parked at its old stop in front of Glen Echo Park.

This is not one of the original #20 Capital Transit trolleys that offered delightful, scenic views as they rolled along the Potomac River to Glen Echo, but a substitute from Philadelphia. One of the old Capital Transit trolleys is now operating in Sarajevo, and another is displayed at the Virginia Transportation Museum in Roanoke, Va. The National Park Service hoped to swap the Philadelphia one for the Roanoke one, but the deal fell through because the Virginia museum specializes in railway artifacts, not trolleys, and wants a Shay gear-driven locomotive instead.

The trolley that arrived at Glen Echo Park on May 24 in pouring rain was transported from Philadelphia on a special "trolley truck." It was greeted by a large group of seventh graders from Pyle Middle School who made a long welcoming sign. Its departure, transportation and arrival were filmed by Glen Echo resident Peter Somerville and, in Philadelphia, by Park Service ranger Stan Fowler, who supervised the move.

The trolley was one of 200 that operated as a regular transportation vehicle in Philadelphia until last July, when they were phased out. It, and a similar one, were donated to the

NPS by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority. The second one, which has not yet arrived, could be used for spare parts.

The new park trolley's wheels did not run on the same gauge as Glen Echo's former ones and temporarily sits on a raised "truck bed" with rails of wider gauge. If in the future the park is able to switch it for a genuine Glen Echo trolley, this platform will be removed. Or, it may be possible to change the wheels to fit the old tracks. In any case, the park will have to build an entrance ramp to meet the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The current rails were donated to the NPS by the Maryland Transit Authority light rail division in Baltimore.

Because the authentic Glen Echo trolley at the Virginia museum is in poor condition, rusting, and with considerable interior damage, the two Philadelphia trolleys could still be useful to supply spare parts for it, according to Joe Burns of the NPS. The Virginia trolley, which was parked in the museum yard on the banks of the Roanoke River, was caught in the 1996 flood when the river overflowed its banks.

The trolley will be dedicated at the "Glen Echo: Then and Wow!" celebration on June 25.

DON'T FORGET THE BUDGET HEARING JUNE 6, 7:30 P.M., TOWN HALL

THE ECHO

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

ASST. EDITOR Diana Hudson-Taylor

REPORTERS Tom Helf

DISTRIBUTION Brockie and Jane Stevenson
Charlie Wells
Maire Hewitt
Isabelle Umpleby
Leland Schwartz

CIRCULATION Susan Grigsby

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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.

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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

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CLERK-TREASURER

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TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

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NEW COUNCILMEMBER MATNEY SWORN IN By Tom Helf

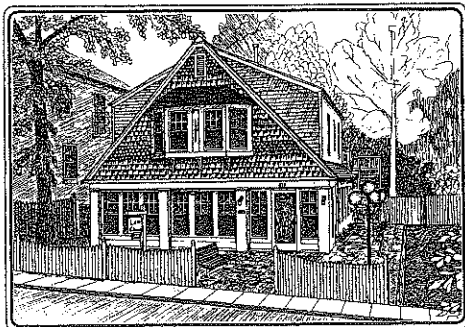
Steve Matney was sworn in as a new member of the Glen Echo Town Council at its May meeting. Steve, who ran unopposed in the May 2 town election, replaces Tim Maloy, a longtime council member, who chose not to run for re-election this year. Immediately upon being sworn in, Steve began serving his four-year term.

Eve Arber was also sworn in at the May meeting, and begins her second four-year term as a member of the council. She also ran unopposed for her seat.

Mayor Debbie Beers, who also won in an uncontested race, begins her fourth term as town mayor. She was sworn in earlier in May by a judge of the Montgomery County Circuit Court.

In the election tally, each candidate received 45 votes, although there were 46 votes cast, according to Susan Grigsby, Supervisor of the Board of Elections. She provided voters with ginger-molasses and macadamia nut cookies as well as Hershey kisses. Assisting as members of the elections board were Lee Clune, Michelle Welles, and Gloria Levin.

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

WELCOME NEWCOMER!

Not many people read the New Testament in Koiné Greek, although that is the language in which it was written. Dr. Ed Curtis, part-time pastor at the Glen Echo Baptist Church, not only can read it but teaches it as his academic specialty.

Currently Academic Dean at the Washington Bible College in Lanham, Md., Dr. Curtis spent 11 years teaching Greek and New Testament studies at the Prairie Bible College in Three Hills, Alberta, Canada. He then spent four years in Calgary, Canada, as Academic Dean of the Prairie Bible College's Seminary while preaching at churches of different denominations.

With his wife, Anne, and two of their three children, he returned to the U.S. two years ago to be closer to their extended family. The Glen Echo assignment was added to his other duties when the previous pastor here, a Chaplain in the Army Reserves, was called to active duty and suggested to Dr. Curtis that he replace him.

As part-time pastor, Dr. Curtis's main duties are conducting the Sunday services and Wednesday evening Bible study. He spends about 10 hours a week here.

Dr. Curtis and family live in University Park, Md. Son Joshua, 24, has just completed a Master's Degree in theoretical physics. Ruthanne, 22, a college student, has done missionary work in Africa, the West Indies, and Russia. Daniel, 17, is a high school student.

A 1986 graduate of the Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. Curtis for the last dozen years has spent short periods teaching Bible college studies in Uganda and the Ukraine. In his few free hours, he likes to read and play golf and hopes to explore historical sites on the East Coast, particularly those of the Civil War period.

Welcome to Glen Echo!

OBERLIN STORM DRAINAGE PROBLEMS PERSIST

By Tom Helf


An old, decaying storm drainage pipe that runs under MacArthur Blvd. in the vicinity of Oberlin Ave. and The Irish Inn at Glen Echo continues to pose problems for the town, Mayor Debbie Beers reported at the May Council meeting.

The drainage pipe is intended to carry storm water runoff from the Tulip Hill neighborhood north of MacArthur Blvd. to the Glen Echo Park property north of the Clara Barton Parkway, following a path under MacArthur, Oberlin and the Inn. Because of the deteriorating condition of the pipe, however, storm water is beginning to break up the pavement in several locations, and has also caused pooling that has broken through the surface pavement.

Mayor Beers, Councilmembers Nancy Long and Eve Arber, and town attorney Norman Knopf met with representatives of the County's Department of Public Works last month to request that the county repair the drainage pipe in question. Mr. Knopf brought with him some old agreements between the town and the county, indicating that the county had agreed to assume maintenance responsibility for the portion of the pipe that runs below town property. In addition, a portion of town residents' tax payments to the county are intended to cover the cost of storm water management and maintenance.

The town is currently awaiting the DPW's response to its request to repair the pipe.

Regarding that portion of the pipe that runs under the Inn, which is not owned by the town, the DPW advised that it would only repair the pipe if there was a recorded easement agreement showing the county's maintenance responsibility. The town will contact Inn owner Chris Hughes to ascertain the existence of any such storm water management easement, as well as to coordinate efforts to ensure that the county satisfies its maintenance and repair responsibilities.



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BE SURE TO SEE "POP-UP" GLEN ECHO ON JUNE 26

Yale Ave. resident Carol Barton, a book and paper artist, will be displaying four three-dimensional pop-up scenes of Glen Echo at the Glen Echo Town Hall on June 26 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The scenes will be featured in the *National Geographic Magazine* in its July issue.

Depicted are a scene of the Ballroom, Carousel, and Pavilion at Glen Echo Park; a vignette of Harvard Ave.; the Shimizu back garden visible from University Ave.; and a view of the Chautauqua tower at the park, the entrance sign, and several artists at their easels.

Carol has published a guide to making pop-ups, "The Pocket Paper Engineer," which she will display and discuss at the event. It will be available for sale.

ALERT FOR NEW RESIDENTS AND FORGETFUL OLD ONES

The time has come when foliage from town yards is overhanging town sidewalks, making safe strolling a matter of avoiding or ducking the plant material or stepping into the street. Beautiful as your landscaping may be, it should be confined to your yard. Since many people walk directly from their front doors to their cars, they are unaware that they are causing such a problem.

It would be much appreciated by your fellow townspeople if you would take a short walk along the sidewalk in front of your house, equipped with clippers, and cut down all foliage that gets in the way.

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PROTECTING MEMORIES BY TRANSFER FROM 8 MM FILM

By Tom Meeks

For nearly a century, we have been able to capture not only the images of ourselves and those we love for future generations, but also moving images that capture our personalities as no still image can do. Sadly, all the media for moving images, whether it is film, videotape or CD/DVD has a very short useful lifespan. To protect these memories we must develop strategies for archiving the images.

While images stored on all these media are in jeopardy of being lost over time, 8mm and Super-8 film is the most at risk. First, the media naturally degrades over time, becoming more brittle and losing color information. Secondly, the equipment for viewing and transferring the images is rapidly disappearing. Film transfer companies have been reduced to scouring eBay for used projectors to cannibalize or modify.

There are two ways to transfer 8mm/Super-8 film to videotape or DVD. If you have your own projector, you can simply record the projected image from a screen or wall using a video camera. This is the least desirable option. 8mm film displays at 16, 18 or 24 frames (images) per second. Capturing this image directly off a screen with a video camera, which records at 30 frames a second, results in flickering. Even so, capturing any image-- even a flickering one-- is preferable to losing everything. Don't be fooled by the devices using an internal mirror and built-in screen that purport to help you transfer the images. I have yet to find one that works well enough to justify the cost.

There is a small company that offers 8mm transfer archives/home movie.html (better quality but higher cost). Others can be found on the Internet that get good reviews by those that have used them. MovieStuff, for instance, offers this service.

The important thing is to get it transferred. Time is your enemysystems for home users that do an incredible job of transferring film to DVD or Video. Prices begin at about \$1100, but might actually be a cost-effective solution if you have a lot of film to transfer. You can find them at <http://www.moviestuff.tv/>.

The easiest way to get the film transferred is to use a professional company to do the job for you. There are several local Maryland and Virginia companies that perform this service. Local companies include Video Editor in Rockville, 301-231-7160, www.videoeditorinc.com/ and Colorlab, also in Rockville, 301-770-2128, www.colorlab.com/y when it comes to protecting your precious memories.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 13—8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall

AROUND TOWN

On April 30 Andrea and Steve Matney of Wellesley Circle participated in the American Visionary Art Museum's **Kinetic Sculpture Race** in Baltimore. This is a 15-mile race of wacky, imaginative, totally human-powered works of art designed to travel on land, through mud, and over deep harbor waters. Sculptures are constructed from used bicycles, gears, and parts. The Matney's team was "Topsy's Reincarnation: Bumpo." Andrea co-piloted the elephant while Steve was a crew member dressed as an elephant and riding his recumbent bicycle. Topsy was an elephant electrocuted in 1903 on Coney Island by Thomas Edison as part of a stunt to demonstrate the alleged danger of alternating current. Photos can be viewed at [http://www.kineticbaltimore.com/...](http://www.kineticbaltimore.com/)

If you think you saw **banana trees** in the Macy's University Ave. yard, you did. Apparently there are also several at the Dworsky's Columbia Rd. property. And Macy admits that he has never been able to grow actual bananas, but has seen the trees the DC area with very little ones. Every fall he digs up the plants and puts them in his basement, where they hibernate over the winter. In the spring he is usually able to cut off offshoots and start new trees...

The Potomac Conservancy has been awarded a grant from the National Park Service for the **new River Center at Lock 8**. It came through the NPS Challenge Cost-Share program and will be used to bring electricity to the lockhouse....

Where are the **morel mushrooms**? They used to be abundant in the C&O Canal National Historical Park, but today they are scarcely seen. Researchers from the USDA Forest Service and Rutgers University will be trying to determine if the reason for fewer morels is environmental change, human harvesting, a high deer population or a combination of factors. The collection of mushrooms along the canal for personal consumption is allowed.

TOWN OPPOSES PROPOSED RIVER ROAD WIDENING

By Tom Helf

Town Council members Nancy Long and Eve Arber reported last month that the Maryland State Highway Administration's proposed widening of River Road drew staunch opposition from scores of county residents at a May 4 public meeting.

The MSHA has proposed enlarging River Road to three lanes in each direction at its intersections with Goldsboro Road and Wilson Lane, in an apparent effort to improve traffic flow. The plan would also involve, however, eliminating the acceleration and deceleration lanes as vehicles enter and leave River Road at these cross streets.

Based on the information provided by Council members Arber and Long, the town will write a letter to the MSHA formally opposing the River Road plan.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

ANNUAL TOWN PICNIC—Sunday July 10
ADULT HALLOWEEN PARTY—Saturday October 29
HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST—Saturday, December 10.



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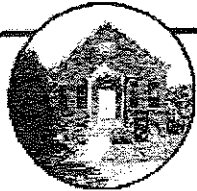
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WANTED: PHOTOS OF THE DGS (District Grocery Store), TRAV'S, or other scenes of Glen Echo of the past. I need them for the history of Glen Echo. Please call Carlotta, 301-229-3748.

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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.

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RESTORED CANAL LOCKHOUSE NOW OPEN AS RIVER CENTER

It has taken three years, hundreds of volunteers, thousands of hours, and many donors of funds, services and supplies. On May 14, the Potomac Conservancy and the U.S. National Park Service opened the new Lockhouse 8 River Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Dating from 1830, Lockhouse 8 was once home to a lockkeeper and his family. Abandoned some time after the canal traffic ceased, it became a dilapidated reminder of a by-gone era. With volunteers and donors, the Potomac Conservancy led the restoration to bring the historic structure back to life as a river learning center.

The restored lockhouse will be a special place for those who visit the C&O Canal National Historical Park to learn about canal history and take part in hands-on activities to protect the natural resources of the Potomac River for the future.

The Lockhouse 8 River Center will also provide a staging area for many of the Conservancy's volunteer projects. River clean-ups, tree plantings, and invasive plant removal efforts, are among the activities that help advance the Conservancy's goals of protecting the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries.

Since 1993, the Potomac Conservancy has been protecting the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries. The organization provides conservation solutions and hands-on restoration opportunities throughout the Potomac River watershed. The conservancy also owns Minnie's Island, a nature preserve located near the Lockhouse, where it conducts education programs.

The Lockhouse 8 River Center will be open to the public on weekends from 10 am-2 pm, May 14 to September 18 with volunteer docents as guides.

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TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

May 9

Repairs to the ceilings in the town hall second floor space, bathrooms and Post Office were recently made. Councilmember Eve Arber also proposed that the town consider **improving the acoustics in the second floor** by installing special ceiling and wall materials to deaden the sound. Mayor Beers has added a line item of \$7,000.00 to the Capital Improvements section of the new town budget to cover the possible cost of this improvement to the town hall.

In light of the new rental rates being charged by Glen Echo Park for the use of the Spanish Ballroom and Bumper Car Pavilion, the town council will be re-evaluating the **rental rates charged to non-town residents for use of the Glen Echo Town Hall**. Among other things, the council will research the rental rates being charged by comparable facilities. The current rental rate is \$500.

--Tom Helf

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 2005

Connecting Links (website)	\$1,337.50
Hilb, Rogal & Hobbs (mayor's bond)	\$100.00
Peyton's Tree Service (snow, trees, right-of-way, street cleaning)	\$12,845.00
King Floor Service (T.H. floors)	\$1,830.30

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night
at Eleanor Balaban's
6003 Bryn Mawr Ave.*

Wednesday, June 22, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-229-7990

NEIGHBORHOOD ALERT

Many residents have noted with concern that a man has been driving through portions of town repeatedly from early morning until late in the evening at approximately 15 minute intervals for several weeks. He drives a gold/tan mid-size car and is a white, middle-aged man; his route through town appears to be down Harvard, left on University and left again on Princeton. The police have been alerted by town officials and residents and have been observed following the car at least once.

GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

7326 University Ave.	\$651,000
21 Wellesley Circle	\$650,000

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JUNE SPECIAL EVENTS AT GLEN ECHO PARK

The **25th Annual Washington Folk Festival** will take place June 4 from noon to 11 p.m. and June 5 from noon to 6 p.m. It features free music, dance, storytelling and crafts with Washington area performers and craftspeople. There will be seven stages to choose from. Free.

On June 25 the Park is offering a free family festival, "**Glen Echo: Then and Wow**," from noon to 6 p.m. Visitors are invited to share stories and artifacts relating to Glen Echo Park's history. Family games, dance lessons and tours of the new trolley exhibition are planned. From 6 p.m. to midnight, the Park will hold a reception followed by dancing in the historic Spanish Ballroom to the world renowned Glenn Miller Orchestra. Tickets to the evening events are available from (301) 634-2222.

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Monday, June 6, 7:30 p.m.—TOWN BUDGET HEARING

Monday, June 13, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, June 25, 8:00 p.m. GLEN ECHO FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 26, 3:00-5:00 p.m.—CAROL BARTON POP-UP PRESENTATION

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.



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PARK NEWS

Glen Echo Park site manager Kym Elder attended the May town council meeting and reported the following:

- The Park Service has been cutting down some trees and clearing branches in an effort to lessen any hazard to the overhead electrical wires.
- In order to handle the large crowds expected for the two main park festivals in June (i.e., the Folk Festival June 4 and 5, and the Glen Echo Park Festival on June 25), the park will have satellite parking and run shuttle buses to and from the park on these dates.
- The painting of the carousel is nearing completion. The roof colors and design are close approximations of the original colors and design from 1921, according to historical notes and photographs.
- In response to a request from Mayor Debbie Beers, the Park Service will remove the orange and white cones from the intersections of town streets and Mac-Arthur Blvd. after major park events. Currently, the cones are not being removed, and have been left in the grass adjacent to the bike path.

--Tom Helf

JUNE EVENT AT NEWLY OPENED LOCKHOUSE 8 RIVER CENTER

Sunday, June 26, 4:30 p.m. Voices of the River: Cabin John history, stories music.

Hear how Cabin John got its name. Be entertained by banjo music by Reed Martin and stories about times long ago on the C&O Canal and Potomac River by local historian Andy Rice. Bring a blanket and picnic food and stay to see the sun setting

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