

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



March 2004

PARKING AT IRISH INN CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park is experiencing an ongoing problem with parking by Irish Inn patrons, according to park site manager Karen Pittleman. Most weekends park officials have to call Montgomery County Police. Patrons are parking on the fire lane on Tulane Ave.

In addition, Ms. Pittleman told the town council at its Feb. 9 meeting, valets are parking in all sorts of places including the middle of the intersection of Tulane and the service road. The park service is documenting these violations with photos. Ms. Pittleman said they are concerned with safety and security because of restricted access for emergency vehicles. She said for two weekends in a row the same officer has been called and he said that next time he will ticket.

She said there is also the issue of parking on the right of way. When the amusement park was deeded to the park service it was deeded with permanent ingress and egress across the right of way. She said her understanding from Mr. Hughes, owner of the Irish Inn, was that he was going to purchase the right-of-way. However, the park service land use office is under the impression he is leasing it.

The town council voted in January to lease its land on Tulane Ave. to Mr. Hughes on a trial basis so he could use it for parking. The charge will be \$250/month.

--Julia Wilson

CENTENNIAL EVENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 21
Glen Echo Town Hall
3:00-5:00 p.m.

HOLLY SHIMIZU
Director, U.S. Botanic Garden
"Plants Native to the Potomac Region"

**Glen Echo resident Holly Shimizu will show slides
and give advice on how to build a native plant
garden**

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

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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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies
Night*

*at Susan Grigsby's
7325 University Ave.*

*Tuesday, Mar. 16, 8:00 p.m.
Please RSVP 301-229-7735*

HARRY WAYS TELLS TOWNSPEOPLE ABOUT AQUEDUCT, BRIDGE

Harry Ways, former Chief Engineer of the Washington Aqueduct, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, told Glen Echo residents about the history of the Washington Aqueduct at the town hall on Sunday, Feb. 15. He showed slides to illustrate his talk. It was part of the town's year-long Centennial celebration.

The aqueduct project, which ran under MacArthur Blvd. (then Conduit Rd.), necessitated laying pipe for nine-and-a-half miles from Great Falls to Washington, D.C. Eleven tunnels had to be dug. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis selected Montgomery Meigs to design and oversee the construction project which was to provide the cities of Washington DC and Georgetown with a reliable water supply.

Mr. Ways called Meigs, who designed the Cabin John Bridge, "one of the most underrated men in American history." In 1863, when the bridge was completed, its 220-foot-long span constituted the longest stone arch in the world. It had nine interior arches, covered by walls.

The bridge was built by German and Irish workers, like those that built the C&O Canal earlier.

Montgomery Meigs also designed the Pension Building, now the National Building Museum.

In response to a question about lead in the local water, Mr. Ways assured the audience that there is no lead in the Potomac River. People have lead in the drinking water in their homes, he said, because of lead lines coming into their houses. This is not only true in D.C., but in all areas where there are older homes, including Glen Echo. He suggested that it would be a good idea for owners of such houses to have their water tested for lead contamination.

The event was organized by Susan Grigsby and Nancy Long. Julia Wilson did the set-up and purchased the refreshments.

EVERYBODY'S IRISH ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Come to Glen Echo's **annual St. Patrick's Day gala** on Saturday, Mar. 13, at 6:30 in the Town Hall!

Everybody need be wearin' a touch o' the green. There will be live music as well as corned beef, chicken and libations.

But there is a wee price for admission: we ask ye to bring green beans, potatoes or a dessert. Or, if feelin' kindly, help with the clean-up t'wd be a Blessing.

Donna be forgettin' your limerick to be celebratin' our one-hundred years. If remembrin', ye might be thinkin' o' those hardworkin' Irish forebearers, who worked on the Canal or the Union Arch Bridge back in those Conduit Road days.


So join us to celebrate!

Rsvp to Kate (301-320-3171) or Susan (301-229-7735) by so we can put your name in the pot. We donna wanna be runnin' low like last year.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Our yard is full of snowdrops, small bulbs which produce white blossoms in February and March and propagate readily. Anyone who wishes to dig up some for their own yard is welcome to do so. Just call Anderson, 301-229-3748.

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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WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

A hearty welcome to Toni Rhodes, her two children, and their seven pets. They moved to 22 Wellesley Circle from D.C. in July because they wanted to live in a real neighborhood and were familiar with this town through the childrens' grandmother, who often visits a friend in Fairway Hills.

Toni's children are Michael, 13, who is in the seventh grade at Parkmont School in D.C. and Kayla, 12, who is in the sixth grade at Georgetown Day School.

Their animals are Eowyn, 3-1/2 months, a black Labrador Retriever who is named after King Theodon's niece in "Lord of the Rings," a favorite book of Kayla's. The cats are Yoshi, who is pure white, George, Sally, and Babette. Obie is a parakeet, and Midnight is a guinea pig.

Toni has taken a year off from her job in order to make the move and do some work on the house. She is the network administrator for the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVAFA), a non-profit organization based in D.C.

Toni and Kayla's favorite hobby is attending a movie every Friday evening, while Michael enjoys skateboarding. They all are both "beach people" and "outdoor people."

Craig Hanna learned about the town of Glen Echo by attending events at Glen Echo Park and Michael Bobbitt has directed a production at Adventure Theatre, so they were delighted to be able to purchase 30 Wellesley Circle in December of last year. They were also eager to have a house with a yard, good schools, and a neighborhood with many children for their son, Sang, 2-3/4 years old, to play with. The family also includes Othello, a 5-year-old Sheltie.

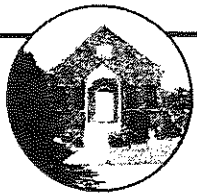
Michael directed "Walking the Winds" at Adventure Theatre last year and will be directing "The Near-Sighted Knight and the Far-Sighted Dragon" there in June. The Knight and Dragon, as it happens, join the save the princess. He has acted in shows at Discovery Theater at the Smithsonian, choreographed the dancers in "Wintertime" at Bethesda's Round House Theater, and choreographed and directed shows at Imagination Stage at White Flint. He trained in New York City, where he appeared in musical theater and was a dancer with the Second Company there. This fall, he will appear at D.C.'s Studio Theatre in "Take Me Out."

Craig is the director of public policy for the American Academy of Actuaries, a trade association in D.C. For 17 years previously he worked on Capitol Hill for Cong. Richard Gephardt, the last five as Gephardt's policy director. He left that position in order to have more time to spend with Sang, whom they adopted in Vietnam when he was eight months old.

Craig is also an accomplished runner, who competed in the 25th Marine Corps Marathon three years ago. He used to run on the C&O Canal towpath from D.C. to Carderock and has done a practice marathon on the towpath.

A hearty welcome to all.

Paid Advertisement



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KILLER OF TOWN RESIDENT COMMITTS SUICIDE

With the suicide of a former cook at Colonel Brooks' Tavern in D.C., police said they have accounted for all those responsible for the April 6 killings of three employees of the restaurant, including Glen Echo resident Joshua Greenberg. Mr. Greenberg was the recently hired head chef at the tavern.

Former cook David A. Wright, 33, apparently killed himself on Jan 29. His three accomplices had been arrested previously and jailed on murder charges. Wright had been fired after complaints from his fellow workers. He was apparently recognized by one of his former colleagues after the slain employees were accosted and the killings began after that.

ATTENTION, BUSINESS OWNERS

If you wish to have your business listed on the Glen Echo website (www.glenecho.org), please notify clerk/treasurer Cathie Polak at 301-320-4041 or via email at townhall@glenecho.org.

The website is being re-designed and all previous business listings are being removed.

Businesses listed will have a link on the town's website to the business website. It will be possible to have the name/address/phone number listed instead of a website link.

The listing will be free of charge but limited to business of Glen Echo town residents.

AROUND TOWN

Don Levine of 7310 University Ave. performed on Feb. 7 at the Saturday night dance at Glen Echo Park. He is a saxophonist with the J-Street Jumpers, a jump/jazz/swing band. They play at Glen Echo Park about three times a year. They also recently performed at the I-Max Café Theater at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

The Irish Inn at Glen Echo was reviewed very favorably in the *Washington Post* on Feb. 13. It said the management is "out to rescue Irish cuisine from its bland, brawny and, well, brown image..." The review described the building as "beautifully refurbished" and called the establishment "a welcome addition to one of Washington's neighborhoods of character, and one that just might kick a few other kitchens in their fatty Celtic keisters."

The Mar. 4 episode of Donald Trump's reality TV show, "The Apprentice" was filmed in the Greenwich Village art gallery (Anthem Gallery) where **Emily Beers** works. Emily is the daughter of Don and Debbie Beers of Wellesley Circle. They don't know if Emily will actually be in the show although she was present during the filming.

The Editor wrote a **letter to the Postmaster** at the Westlake Post Office, Bethesda, 20817, complaining that mail was being delivered very late, on one day not at all, and often to the wrong houses. Mail to Glen Echo addresses is delivered from that post office, not the branch in Glen Echo. A couple days later Linroy Davis, the Delivery Supervisor at the Westlake Post Office called to say that he had talked with the carrier, and ascertained that he had been given more of a workload than normal. Service seems to have improved since then.

Some residents were puzzled by the **large number of fire trucks and policemen** on MacArthur Blvd. near Princeton Ave. the morning of Wednesday, Feb. 18. Firemen and police were assembled to attend a funeral Mass at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Redeemer for Albert D. "Mickey" Harris, retired Deputy Fire Chief of the Glen Echo Volunteer Fire Dept. and Honorary Fire Chief of the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Dept.

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT January 2003

Chapel Valley (landscaping)	\$1,175.00
Pepco (streetlights)	\$584.33
Madeleine Carter (holiday breakfast)	\$41.31

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TOWN AUDITOR RAISING HIS FEES BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL SCANDALS

By Melinda Hennenberger

The Enron, WorldCom and Tyco scandals have forced Glen Echo's accountant to substantially raise his fees, he said in a recent letter to the Glen Echo Town Council.

Dennis T. Miller explained in the Jan. 2 letter, which was read at the February town council meeting, that "As you are no doubt aware, the auditing industry has been under intense pressure over the recent months, much of it as a result of highly publicized cases such as Enron, WorldCom, Tyco and others. These cases were caused by corporate greed, both on the part of the executives...and the accounting/auditing firms."

"Unfortunately," he went on, "the greed of a few is having a significant impact on many," including "individuals and organizations that were simply going about their own business and were in no way involved with these situations."

These well-known cases of fraudulent financial reporting led to new requirements for auditors, who must now show they have taken a number of additional steps to prevent and detect fraud in financial statements.

As a result, Mr. Miller wrote, "I have estimated that an equitable fee for the audit services required by the Town would be \$4,200. However, I realized that such an increase from the prior-year fee of \$2,800 is unrealistic." So, he proposes that Glen Echo pay \$3,500 this year and \$4,200 in 2005.

No action was taken on the request by the town council.



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COME TO GLEN ECHO'S ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY GALA

Saturday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall

**LIVE MUSIC! CORNED BEEF!
LIMERICKS!**

Bring green beans, potatoes, or
dessert

RSVP to Kate (301-320-3171) or
Susan (301-229-7735)



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happening up and down
MacArthur Blvd."

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FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

- Tuesday, Mar. 2—Mycological Assn. meeting, 8:00 p.m.
 Saturday, Mar. 13, 6:00-9:00 p.m.—**ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER**
 Monday, Mar. 8, 8:00 p.m.—**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**
 Sunday, Mar. 14, 3:30-5:30 p.m.—**FAMILY DANCE.**
 Sunday, Mar. 21, 3:00-5:00 p.m.—**CENTENNIAL EVENT: HOLLY SHIMIZU, Talk, "Plants Native to the Potomac Region".**
 Thursday, Mar. 25, 8:00 p.m.—**BRYAN BOWERS, auto harpist, concert**
 Sunday, Mar. 28, 1:00-5:00 p.m.—**SCOTTISH FIDDLE CLUB—Scottish Dancing and Fiddle Playing**

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.

MANY CENTENNIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR

A varied and interesting schedule of events is being planned for the celebration in 2004 of The Town of Glen Echo's 100 years of existence. All events are free and the general public is invited to many of the activities. They will take place at the Glen Echo Town Hall.

On Sunday, March 21, Glen Echo resident Hoiiy Shimizu will speak on "Plants Native to the Potomac Region" at the town hall from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Ms. Shimizu is the Executive Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden. She will show slides and give advice on how to build a native plant garden.

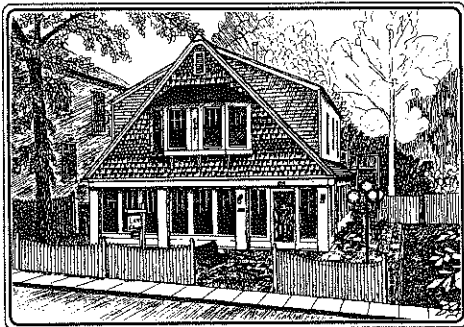
On Sunday, April 18, an event is scheduled with the speaker to be announced.

Saturday, May 15, will feature a town garden tour.

On Sunday, May 23, Washington Post columnist Colbert King will speak on racial integration at Glen Echo Park.

Other events will be publicized later.

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

HELP SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

Did you know that...

Glass peanut butter jars are recyclable, **but**
Plastic jars are not.

Plastic milk containers are recyclable, **but**
Wax-coated paper milk cartons are not.

Plastic items should have a narrow neck, in other words...

No: Margarine tubs
Frozen food trays/bowls
Fast food containers
Yogurt cups

That means, disregard the insignia on the bottom.
The banned items slow down the recycling process.

--Constance Macy

HAPPY SPIRIT PERVADES VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

A large turnout of town residents was treated to a beautifully decorated Valentine's Day party on Saturday, Feb. 14, with plenty of pizza and side dishes for all.

Guests sat family-style at round tables dotted with candy hearts and enjoyed talking to friends and neighbors while they ate. A long table laden with hearts, doilies, and stickers for making Valentine cards was well used by both children and adults.

An array of salads, fruits and desserts was contributed by attendees at this pot-luck event.

The party, which was sponsored by the town, was organized primarily by Eve Arber and Nancy Long, who also decorated the town hall and purchased the beverages and Valentine-making items. Some of the guests who remained until the end of the party helped with clean-up

BRYAN BOWERS TO PLAY AUTOHARP AT TOWN HALL

Master of the Autoharp Bryan Bowers will perform at the Glen Echo Town Hall on **Thursday, Mar. 27, at 8:00 p.m.** He's played at the town hall before and was so impressed with its excellent acoustics that he asked to return. He wanted to do this concert in an intimate hall, unamplified, without a sound system to come between a performer and an audience.

His concert is sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. It is free to town residents.

Bowers specializes in gospel and traditional songs and hymn tunes, as well as songs he has written himself. He is a native of southern Virginia and as a child would tag along with the field workers and gandy dancers and learned to sing old call-and-answer songs.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Radon is second only to cigarette smoking as the leading cause of lung cancer?

Radon is a radioactive gas created during the natural decay of uranium in rocks and soils?

Approximately 33% of Montgomery County homes exceed the EPA suggested action level (based on data from 41,000 tests conducted through March 2003), and radon has been detected in all parts of Montgomery County?

Montgomery County and the federal EPA recommend houses be tested annually for indoor radon levels?

Radon gas emitted from rocks and soils can easily enter into cracks and openings (such as sump pumps and gaps around water pipes) in the foundation of a house. It builds up in enclosed, unventilated spaces (such as basement closets, cabinets or unused rooms). The County considers this such a potentially significant public health problem that it has mounted an effort to educate County residents and also collect data from communities in the County.

Recently, the County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced the availability of free (short term) test kits. The response was so great that DEP ran out of kits. However, you can buy test kits at most hardware stores, typically located next to smoke detectors. (Look for an assurance that the kit "meets EPA requirements.")

The kit consists of a small (4" long) bottle, detailed instructions and a pre-paid envelope for mailing the bottle to a laboratory for analysis. The test couldn't be easier – unscrew the cap of the bottle and place the bottle in the lowest lived in level of the house. At the end of the test period (2 days for the short term test), the cap is replaced, dates and times are noted, and the exposed bottle (called a radon gas detector) is mailed in the envelope.

Long term tests, also available, remain exposed to the air for at least three months, giving a more accurate reading over time. The laboratory sends its analysis to the homeowner and to the County, allowing DEP to construct a map of indoor radon levels around the County.


Houses with unsafe levels of radon can be repaired by sealing cracks and installing a vent pipe or a special exhaust fan, depending upon the problem and the type of house.

The County sponsored a similar testing effort approximately 15 years ago, and *The Echo* reported test readings from three Glen Echo houses – all within the safe range. However, the level of technology has improved considerably in the interim, with the use of more sensitive and, thus, accurate procedures. A safe test result can be an additional selling point when marketing a house for sale.

DEP's radon program can be contacted at 240-777-7770 or radon@askDEP.com. Further information is available on the Web at <http://askDEP.com>.

--Gloria Levin

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