

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



November 2004

WHAT HISTORIC PRESERVATION WOULD MEAN IN GLEN ECHO

By Carlotta Anderson

Would historic designation protect Glen Echo from unwanted developers and drastic changes in the community's character?

Or would the stricter scrutiny of the county be a nuisance?

Would the property tax credit for renovations be a boon to residents?

Or would the process seem too complex and confining?

These are some of the dilemmas townspeople will face if they seek historic district designation for the entire town.

The whole area of Glen Echo has historic potential, according to Gwen Wright, Historic Preservation Supervisor for the Maryland-National Capital Part and Planning Commission. She told residents at a talk on Sunday, Oct. 17 at the town hall: "Glen Echo really IS historic. When you enter the town you can feel it immediately."

She said the county's Historic Preservation Ordinance helps retain a community's character because it offers "some guarantee of oversight." The townships of Chevy Chase and Kensington chose to adopt the historic status and not only did that produce no diminishing of property values but "one study found property values increased after historic designation," she said.

She pointed to Cabin John, which does not have his-

toric designation, and "has had a lot of houses replaced by others that were monstrously huge."

If the town had historic status, the county would deal with exterior alterations only. No interior changes would be reviewed. If exterior work involved replacement of existing materials, such as a new roof of the same type, it would not be subject for review. Nevertheless, the work would be eligible to a 10 percent tax credit for the homeowner.

In other words, all exterior work on Glen Echo houses would be eligible for the tax credit if it was simply a replacement or if it was new construction approved by the commission. This would be true whether the house was old or recently built.

A homeowner who contemplated changes would have to submit the plans to the Historic Preservation Commission, which, according to Ms. Wright, would come back with a decision within 45 days, "although we usually do it in 21 days." Emergency repair work could be done immediately.

Oakdale Villa, at 42 Wellesley Circle has had historic designation for several years as has the Clara Barton house and Glen Echo Park. Bonfield's former gas station on MacArthur Blvd., which is now the site of a Wild Bird Center store, was granted historic status. "If it had not been designated it would have been torn down and replaced with some maximum size building," she said.

—continued on page 3

THE ECHO

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♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Saturday, November 6, 8:00 p.m.—CONCERT, Jane Voss & Hoyle Osborne, sponsored by FSGW.

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

Sunday, November 14, 3:30-5:30 p.m.—FAMILY DANCE

Saturday, November 20, 8:00 p.m.—Voices-in-the-Glen STORYTELLERS

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.

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND 20812

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GALA GLEN ECHO ART SHOW SCHEDULED FOR DEC. 17-19

An unusual art exhibit specially geared for Glen Echo residents has been scheduled for December in the Glen Echo Town Hall in which only paintings of the Town of Glen Echo and the Clara Barton house will be on view.

The paintings will be by the art teachers, artists and students affiliated with the Yellow Barn studio in Glen Echo Park and other artists and will be for sale as well as display. All proceeds will go directly to the artists.

These works of art reflect the creative work observed in the making by residents when they saw the artists and their easels on the town sidewalks over the years.

Paintings by the Yellow Barn's celebrated instructors Walt Bartman, W. Michael Bartman III, Bonnie Lundy and others will be included.

The exhibit's opening reception will take place Friday evening, Dec. 17, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. to which all town residents are invited. The exhibit and sale coincide with the town's annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast Saturday morning, Dec. 18, so that is another opportunity for Glen Echo-ans to enjoy the works. Paintings will continue to be on view and for sale the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 18 and 19, from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

This will be a unique opportunity to acquire an original work of art documenting your house or another site in Glen Echo.

SPEED BUMP ON UPPER OXFORD AGAIN BEING CONSIDERED By Tom Helf.

The Glen Echo Town Council at its Oct. 11 meeting re-visited the issue of installing a speed bump on upper Oxford Road.

The discussion was prompted by several recent instances of automobiles running the stop sign at the corner of Oxford and University Aves. during evening events at Glen Echo Park.

Council members said they expected that the situation may worsen as the days get shorter, for in the darkness park attendees may not see the STOP sign at the intersection.

As an interim measure, the council decided to contact the Montgomery County Police Department to request that an officer patrol the intersection and issue traffic citations during evening park events.

The council also discussed distributing flyers to Spanish Ballroom dance patrons to remind them of the STOP sign at the Oxford/University corner.

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION (FROM PAGE 1)

The new owners of Sycamore Store are apparently planning to request approval for new construction; it already has historic designation.

If townspeople were interested in applying for this status, they should notify the Glen Echo Town Council, she said. She said she would be happy to return to discuss the matter at a town council meeting.

The talk was part of the town Centennial Speaker Series and was organized by Councilwoman Nancy Long.

Ms. Wright's talk was preceded by a presentation by Mike Dwyer, Historic Resources Manager of the Dept. of Park and Planning. He showed slides of many early photos of the area.

NANCY McDONALD 1924-2004

Nancy McDonald, who was long resident at 24 Wellesley Circle, died Wednesday, October 13 in Boulder, Colo. of lung disease. She had moved from Glen Echo some years ago to join her son Carl in Cheyenne, Wyo.

She is survived by two daughters, Susan Wong of Denver, and Sallie McDonald of Washington, D.C. as well as her son Carl. A son Michael preceded her in death.

She also had two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church in Bethesda on Oct. 19. She was buried in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring.

PEPCO TREE-TRIMMING DEEMED EXCESSIVE

By Tom Helf

Since last fall's Hurricane Isabelle, PEPCO and its tree-trimming contractor Asplundh have been endeavoring to clear tree branches from electrical lines.

Members of the town council complained, however, that some of its efforts have been over-zealous. One large tree near the Stevensons' Yale Avenue house was trimmed in such a reckless and imbalanced fashion that it threatened to fall over.

As a result of this and similar incidents, Councilwoman Nancy Long announced at the October 11 Town Council meeting that she will look into inviting a representative from PEPCO to speak to townspeople and respond to questions from residents about its tree-trimming policy.

YARD SALES AGAIN BRISK

Saturday, Oct. 23 dawned a perfect fall day for Glen Echo's town wide yard sale. By 8:30 a.m. 12 households began setting out their wares. Anna Bayer and her family kindly inflated helium balloons to guide the shoppers to the treasures and Norman Hudson-Taylor passed out maps locating the participating households.

Shoppers soon began lining up and business stayed brisk throughout the morning with good profits and enjoyable visiting for all. When the sale ended at 1:00 p.m. tables were looking sparse.

Great appreciation goes to Carlotta Anderson for help with publicity, James Gibney for drafting the flyers for town folk, the Bayer family for their balloon help, Jim and Carlotta Anderson and Nancy Long for passing out maps and endeavoring to sell town T-shirts and Walking Tour booklets in front of the town hall and Diana Hudson-Taylor for the yard sale signage.

Participating households paid a \$5 fee and the advertising costs to the town were less than \$20.

It was a fun and festive time for all; thank you Glen Echo!



GLEN ECHO PROPERTIES FOR SALE

5 Vassar Circle	\$695,000
7310 Columbia Road	\$1,250,000

WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

"I always knew of Glen Echo as a wonderful place and always wanted to live here," says new resident Leland Schwartz, who moved to 6100 Yale Ave. in July with his wife, Ainsley Perrien, and children Tayler, Leland and Elliott.

His praise is even more impressive when one considers that the family lived in the charming town of Waterford, Va. for five years and considers this town very similar in spirit.

A Connecticut native, Leland founded States News Service in D.C. with a friend in 1973 when he was 24 years old. He is now owner and editor. This unique wire service covers state-specific news in government, with its reporters assigned to specific states. Leland is also a consultant to *The New York Times*, working on news distribution ideas.

Of the roughly 3,000 reporters who have worked for States over the years, many have gone on to the *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal* and other jobs all over the world.

Indeed, current resident Julia Wilson used to cover Arizona for the service and her brother, Eric Anderson, was assigned to Colorado and eventually moved to the *Denver Post*.

Ainsley, who is from New Orleans, was originally a researcher at States. She and Leland married in 1990. She now works as an investigator for the James Mintz Group, a worldwide private investigation organization.

Their daughter, Tayler, 13, is in the eighth grade at Georgetown Day School. Leland, 11, and Elliott, 8, attend Bannockburn Elementary School. The family also includes Creole, a two-year-old border collie, and a cat, Waterford, 18.

The children are all enthusiastic about soccer, baseball and volleyball. Ainsley is an avid gardener, and Leland a woodworker.

Welcome to Glen Echo!



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TOWN CONSIDERING CHANGING TRASH CONTRACTORS

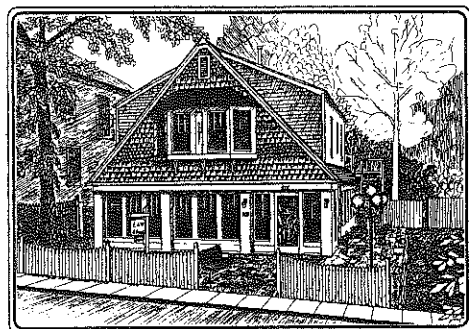
By Tom Helf

The town is considering alternatives to its current trash contractor Waste Management. Mayor Debbie Beers reported at the October meeting of the town council that even though Waste Management has improved its performance in town it is still difficult to deal with on an administrative level.

As an example, Mayor Beers explained that the town has been attempting over the past several months to finalize a written contract with Waste Management but the company has been non-responsive and dilatory.

Town resident Gloria Levin has graciously volunteered to canvass neighboring municipalities to ascertain the identity of their trash contractors and level of satisfaction with their service and administrative responsiveness. One such contractor (J&J) has submitted a proposal to the town to pick up the town's trash, but the council decided that it would not act on this proposal until it has had the opportunity to review the information being obtained by Ms. Levin.

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TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

October 11

The Town Council recently commissioned an engineering company to perform an assessment of the town's **long-term capital improvement needs**. Mayor Debbie Beers and Councilman Dan Macy recently met with a company representative to walk the town, and expect to receive its report and recommendations in the near term...

In response to the recent car-jacking in Glen Echo, and continuing concerns about the difficulties residents have in crossing MacArthur Boulevard, the Town Council has arranged to have a community relations representative from the Montgomery County Police Department attend the council's November meeting to speak about, and field questions concerning, **crime and traffic issues**. The meeting will take place Monday, November 8th at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

--Tom Helf


BANNOCKBURN HOLDS CRAFT SALE NOVEMBER 7

The Bannockburn Craft Sale, that community's annual sale to benefit the clubhouse restoration fund, is on for Sunday, Nov. 7, at the Bannockburn clubhouse up the hill on Bannockburn Drive.

Featured are jewelry, pottery, scarves, baskets, photos, wooden boxes, chocolates and other items made by local artisans. The sale will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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



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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Alexis Feringa's
6009 Princeton Ave.*

Wednesday November 17, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-263-1254

RAGTIME, BOOGIE-WOOGIE, BLUES CONCERT AT TOWN HALL NOV. 6

Singer Jane Voss and pianist Hoyle Osborne will be presenting a concert ranging from traditional to original pieces at the Glen Echo Town Hall on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 8:00 p.m. It is sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington and Glen Echo residents will be admitted free of charge.

The musical couple has appeared in concerts and festivals all over North America and has been featured on several nationally syndicated radio shows, including "All Things Considered," "Fresh Air," and "Mountain Stage."

Hoyle is often found playing classic and original piano rags in the Diamond Belle Saloon in the Colorado mining town of Durango (near their current home in Aztec,

STORYTELLERS PERFORM AT TOWN HALL NOVEMBER 20

Some of the area's best storytellers will be on hand Saturday, Nov. 20, at 8:00 p.m. at the Glen Echo Town Hall as part of a world-wide celebration of stories day.

They will tell stories of all sorts for adults and children-who-can-listen-like-adults.

It's free and light refreshments will be served. For more information call 301 654-5818.


FORMER RESIDENT RECEIVES PRIZE

Jim Sanborn, former resident of 6106 Yale Ave. last month was awarded the Kreeger Artist Award at a black tie gala. The award was established for the museum's 10th anniversary.

The prize carries a \$10,000 grant.

When Mr. Sanborn lived in Glen Echo in the 1970s, he created large art works of steel, aluminum and other metals in a cavern that existed under the former Crystal Pool and was a sort of studio used by metalworkers.

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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

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Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$7.00 Call 301-320-5331

NATIVE TREE SEEDS STILL NEEDED FOR RIVER REFORESTATION

Since the beginning of October, "Growing Native" volunteers have been collecting native tree seeds such as acorns and walnuts which will grow into seedlings to be used for planting along the Potomac River.

This year there has been a shortage of seeds, partly because the 17-year cicadas caused the tips of tree branches, where seeds are produced, to break off.

The Potomac Conservancy is urging adults and children to collect seeds from native hardwood trees and drop them off at Lockhouse 8 along the C&O canal or at Westbrook Elementary School in Bethesda.

They will be open to collect seeds until Nov. 7.

Good hunting and have fun!

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