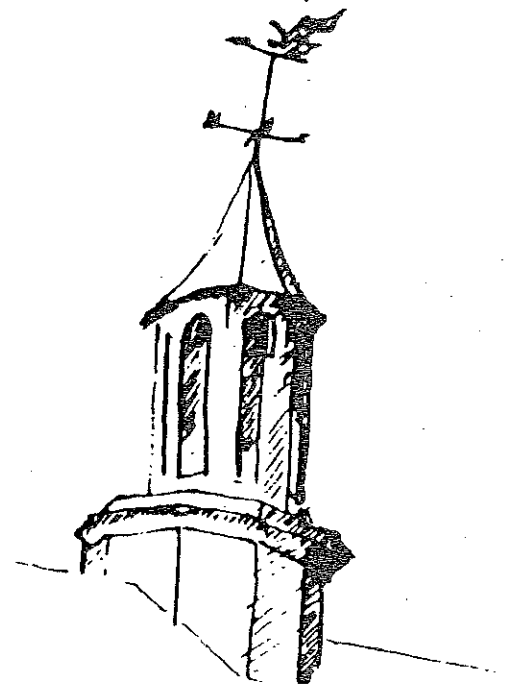


The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



November 2005

BILL LIMITING BUILDING HEIGHT PASSES COUNCIL

The Montgomery County Council last month voted 8 to 1 to approve a bill limiting the height of single-family houses which council member Howard A. Denis introduced two years ago. The bill faced an uphill battle because of opposition by a committee chaired by council member Steven A. Silverman, who cast the only dissenting vote, and an intense lobbying campaign by builders.

The measure changes the way height is measured and is expected to prevent some degree of the mansionization that has beset areas of Montgomery County in the last decade.

Under the new rules height will be measured from the front of the house rather than from the street level. Height will be limited to 30 feet from the front to the midpoint of the roof, or 35 feet to the peak. It will apply to all building permits issued after Oct. 11.

No longer can builders pile up dirt and then measure the height of the house from that higher point. The bill does not deal with the width of houses, however.

The development standards for residential, one-family, detached houses in the R-60 zone, which describes houses in Glen Echo, require a lot size of 6,000 sq. ft. (5,000 sq. ft. in Glen Echo). Maximum coverage of the lot is 35%, including accessory buildings.

The minimum front yard setback is 25 ft; minimum

MANSIONIZATION CONCERNS AIRED AT COUNCIL MEETING By Dave Chitwood

What the town can or should do to prevent mansionization in its midst was discussed at length at the Oct. 10 Glen Echo Town Council meeting.

Mayor Debbie Beers began the discussion of what many perceive as oversized eyesores infesting nearby communities by referring to a document that town resident Carlotta Anderson had submitted to the council. The document describes some of the methods that other communities have adopted to combat the proliferation of homes larger than those in their immediate surroundings. For example, Garrett Park obtained the approval of the Montgomery County Council to institute an "overlay zone," i.e., an area with construction restrictions more strict than the county standards.

Before asking for opinions from others, the mayor stated that she was "not a fan" of overlay zones and that half of the houses in Glen Echo were probably not in compliance with existing setbacks. She asked town residents in attendance to give reasons for their concern.

Ms. Anderson stated that the concern was widespread. She mentioned other neighborhoods or town such as Somerset, Washington Grove and Mohican Hills in addition to Garrett Park which have either taken independent action or worked closely with Montgomery County Councilmember Howard Denis who introduced a bill two years ago which would limit

—continued on page 2

—continued on page 4

THE ECHO

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TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eve Arber 301-263-0016

Steve Matney 301-320-2059

Dan Macy 301-229-2122

Nancy Long 301-332-3823

CLERK-TREASURER

Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Friday, November 11, 8:00 p.m.—FYNESOUND, Irish and Scottish music and dance

Monday, November 14, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

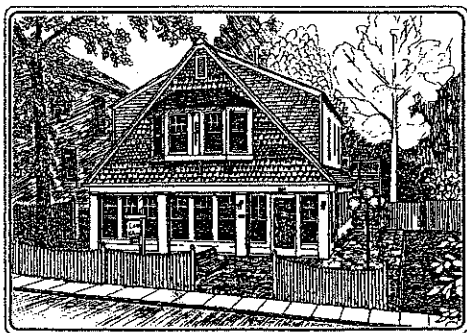
Friday, November 18, 7:00-10:00 p.m. and

Saturday, November 19, 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.—JOHN MORROW PHOTO EXHIBIT

Saturday, November 26, 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.

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

BUILDING HEIGHT (FROM PAGE 1)

rear yard setback is 20 ft; with varying side yard setbacks depending on when the lot was recorded, but no less than 5 ft. on each side from the adjacent lot line for lots recorded before 1928.

WILDLIFE, LANDSCAPE PHOTOS ON EXHIBIT IN TOWN NOV. 18-19

A spectacular exhibit of some 50 large photographs of wildlife and landscapes of Alaska and Wyoming will be displayed at the Glen Echo Town Hall on Nov. 18 and 19.

The framed photographs by Harvard Ave. resident John Morrow will be hung on the side walls and on easels the length of the hall. Four huge 4' x 6' photos of bears will be on the back wall.

The showing on Friday, Nov. 18 will take place from 7:00-10:00 p.m. and will include a slide show from 8:00-8:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 19, the exhibit will be open from 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. with a slide show from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

The photos will be for sale and can be ordered at the exhibit.

This is another in the series of events sponsored by the town as part of the continuing Centennial celebration.

TOWN GIVEN HUNDREDS OF DOCUMENTS BY RESEARCHER

The town last month received hundreds of copies of newspaper articles about its early history from Rev. George Stuart of the Church of the Little Flower on Massachusetts Ave. He is researching the history of the St. Agnes Mission—later the Chapel of the Little Flower—which stood on Cornell Ave. near MacArthur Blvd. from 1906-1960.

In the course of his research, Rev. Stuart, a specialist in canon law, also delved into the stories of Glen Echo's early residents, especially its first mayor, John Garrett. He also created genealogical charts of many early families, which indicate much intermarriage. They include Ogle/Bobinger, Weaver/Boswell, Garrett/Houghton/Shoemaker, Houghton/Roach/Moran, and Moran/Roach/Houghton/Duncan, the latter being the family of the current County Executive, Douglas M. Duncan.

A number of early photographs were included in the materials Rev. Stuart copied for the town. He has also been spending time at the town hall researching town minutes and tax records for his study, which will be a history of the St. Agnes Mission and its evolution into Our Lady of Victory Church in Georgetown and the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda. He would be happy to hear from anyone who has anything to share about the Little Flower Chapel. You can contact him at StuartG@adw.org.

The town owes Rev. Stuart an enormous debt of gratitude for his major contribution to the town archives.

RESIDENT TICKETED FOR CUTTING FOLIAGE

By Carlotta Anderson

On the morning of Oct. 1, resident Jim Anderson was presented with a certificate from the National Park Service commending him for his "generous contributions to the Volunteers-in-Parks program and the mission of the National Park Service."

Four hours later, a National Park Service policeman threatened him with arrest for cutting a few small branches hanging over the Clara Barton Parkway below Glen Echo.

As Mr. Anderson was clipping the branches with a lopper, the police officer got out of his car and said: "Step back a few feet and drop your cutters on the ground behind you. I'm investigating a crime here."

"I was just cutting the foliage back because it hung over the roadway," Mr. Anderson explained. "It makes it dangerous to cross the parkway because it obscures our vision of oncoming traffic."

"That's a crime, too," responded the officer, referring to crossing the parkway. As he said that, three people crossed the parkway about 50 feet away. The policeman ignored that event and noted that he could arrest Mr. Anderson.

He then left a fellow officer in charge and started ascending the rough pathway up the hill to Glen Echo. At the top he encountered Elaine Bodlander. Showing her his badge and handcuffs, he advised that he might have to arrest Mr. Anderson and that he wanted to see where the path went. She mentioned that recently she had called the Park Service to remove bamboo growing adjacent to her property, but that it was beginning to grow again, and she'd had to trim some back. He stuck his fingers in his ears.

At that point a police car arrived with his supervisor, who was able to inform him what statute had been violated. The first policeman then wrote up a ticket for the crime: 36 CFR 2.31(a)(3), Injury of Federal Property 32930. It said that Mr. Anderson will be informed as to the date and time he must appear in court in Greenbelt.

He has since been informed that he is due in court on Nov. 4 at 8:00 a.m.

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MANSIONIZATION DISCUSSION (FROM PAGE 1)

the height of single-family buildings. (Ed. The bill finally passed in the County Council last month. See article p. 1)

She said that there are several lots in Glen Echo exceeding 9,000 square feet in area that would be ideal candidates for construction of large homes, as well as homes on smaller lots could be made taller and visually overbearing.

Residents Sharon Lerner and Jim Shaut also spoke about their concerns with mansionization.

Mayor Beers asked Town Attorney Norman Knopf for his opinions about the legality of the various processes. He stated that the town's lack of zoning authority makes it impossible to create an overlay zone without County Council permission. However, an exception in the zoning process does give the town the ability to impose additional setbacks that can be used creatively. For example, the town could mandate that a home with a 35-foot height be built with a larger setback than a 30-foot high house. Given the small size of most of the lots in the Town, this process could be quite effective, he said.

Mr. Knopf added that some towns have set a limit on the maximum percentage of lot area that a house's footprint can cover; for example, 35%. He added that there has not been a problem with mansionization in Glen Echo because there are many very small lots here. Indeed, lots of less than 5,000 square feet in area could not have new homes built upon them.

The Mayor then questioned whether large homes were inherently a problem. She expressed a concern that most recent home sales have not been to young families with small children and wondered if the small size of most of the town's houses was a reason. She added that a prohibition on allowing her to expand her own home to accommodate a growing family would have been a major issue in her family's life.

Mr. Knopf stated that County Council permission for an overlay zone could be obtained, but that the town already has the authority to institute stricter setback requirements than the county has created. He said it could take a year to obtain authority for an overlay zone, but an anti-mansionization ordinance could be created with the typical due process of two or three months.

A discussion then ensued about the actual purpose of a new ordinance. The mayor expressed concern about infringement of the freedom of citizens to expand their homes. Ms. Anderson thought that the loss of freedom would be offset by the preservation of the character of the town. There were several statements about the difficulty in describing the character of the town or, for that matter, defining mansionization and how to create specific setbacks to regulate it. Councilmember Dan Macy, in words humorously echoing Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, stated that he could not define mansionization but knew it when he sees it.

The Mayor agreed then asked the town attorney about the possibility of exempting additions from proposed regulations. Mr. Knopf replied that the specifics could be tricky; some definitions of renovation mandate only that two existing

walls remain. He added that the existing regulations are more generous for renovations than new construction; for example, renovations can be made on homes on lots of less than 5,000 square feet in area, although new homes cannot be built on such lots.

There also is a problem with homes that have been built across two or more lot lines that were not re-subdivided as one lot, as has been common in Glen Echo, Mr. Knopf said. New construction across such original lot lines is prohibited unless the property is resubdivided. This is a complex process but has been done several times by various town residents. Councilmember Steve Matney asked Mr. Knopf how well the county enforces restrictions on additions across lot lines. He replied, "Not terribly well."

For point of disclosure, Mayor Beers added that she is planning to expand her house across a lot line.

In an effort to determine the opinion of townspeople, the council planned to hold a special meeting so that town residents could discuss mansionization, methods for combating it, and a survey of the opinions of townspeople about it.

However, since the adoption of the Denis bill, the town has deferred such a meeting for the time being.

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RESIDENT BECOMES NEW OMBUDSMAN AT POST

Wellesley Circle resident Deborah Howell last month introduced herself in her first column as the new ombudsman of *The Washington Post*. She wrote that her two goals in her new job were "to foster good journalism and to increase understanding between the *Post* and its readers."

She invites readers to call or e-mail her with complaints about articles but also by letting her know when they like something, when there's something they think the paper should be pursuing or when there's something they don't understand about a story or news judgment. Her number at work is 202-334-7582 and her e-mail is ombudsman@washpost.com.

Ms. Howell wrote of growing up in Texas and working on the *Daily Texan* at the University of Texas in Austin, where she got a degree in journalism. She went on to newspaper and radio and television jobs in Texas before moving to Minneapolis for the *Minneapolis Star*. She then moved to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, and in 1990 became Washington bureau chief for Newhouse Newspapers.

She moved to Glen Echo 13 years ago with her husband, Peter Magrath.

AROUND TOWN

Working with Special Counsel Patrick J. Fitzgerald on the CIA leak investigation was Wellesley Circle resident **Peter Zeidenberg**, a Justice Department prosecutor. The two-year long case brought before a federal grand jury resulted in the Oct. 28 indictment of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Cheney's chief of staff on charges of perjury, obstruction of justice and making false statements...

Former resident **Chris Anderson** received the Editor of the Year award from Advertising Age magazine for his editorship of the magazine *Wired*. He is the son of Jim and Carlotta Anderson, and brother of Julia Wilson...

On Friday, Nov. 11, at 8:00 p.m., Fynesound will give a spirited performance of **traditional Scottish and Irish music and dance**. Glen Echo residents will be admitted free of charge.

Despite a rainy day, eight families offered their wares at the Oct. 22 **town yard sale** organized by Diana Hudson-Taylor. Several of those who didn't have garages, porches or back rooms displayed their items the town hall to keep them out of the rain. Business appeared brisk, and children in particular seemed joyful to get treasures for a dollar or two...

The Macys discovered a few small bananas on one of their **banana trees** last month, the first time they have had any on their dozen or so trees. It's about time to dig up the trees, which are about 10 feet high, and bring them in for the winter, which is not small task....

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 2005

Atlantic Paving (street striping)	\$700.00
GEPPAC (donation)	\$1,000.00
Glen Echo Fire Dept. (donation)	\$500.00
Off-duty police (3)	\$650.00



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TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Oct. 10

Mayor Beers said a contractor working on a house on lower Yale Ave. had damaged part of the sidewalk and street in the area. Only the sidewalk was repaired. The Mayor asked Councilmember Macy to inspect the Town's streets and sidewalks for damage. Envisioning a **construction bond to fund the repairs**, she asked Town Attorney Norman Knopf whether the bond needs to be included in an ordinance. Mr. Knopf said it did and that he will have an ordinance prepared prior to the next Council meeting on November 14.

The council accepted a proposal for **landscaping** at the town park and town hall grounds. It would provide the park with light tillage, aeration, seeding and top dressing with mulch at a cost of \$425; an additional \$200 included aerating and seeding the area under the maple tree in front of the town hall.

There was a short discussion about the **old records** of the town and their lack of storage and archives in a digital format. Councilmember Steve Matney said that he will ask his wife, who does work at the National Archives in Adelphi, about the fees an outside firm might charge for archiving the minutes and other documents.

--Dave Chitwood

CAROLYN REEDER'S NEW BOOK PUBLISHED

Glen Echo resident and award-winning author Carolyn Reeder's latest historical novel for young people has just been released. Titled *The Secret Project Notebook*, it was published by the Los Alamos Historical Society as part of its commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Set in the heavily guarded "secret city" where scientists developed the atomic bomb, the story is told by Fritz Madden, the seventh-grade son of one of the scientists. Fritz is intrigued by the secrecy imposed on the remote New Mexico location where his family has suddenly relocated: mail is censored, visitors are barred from town, the scientists talk in code. And what about the rumbling of explosions in the nearby canyons? Fritz is determined to figure it all out. With the help of his classmate Kathy, he records "rumors and observations" in a notebook he doesn't dare let out of his sight.

The book is available locally at Booktopia, 4701 Sangamore Road, Bethesda, in the Shoppes of Sumner. It is appropriate for children ages 10 and up.



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TOWN TO HIRE CONSULTANT ON HEATING TOWN HALL

By Dave Chitwood

Town resident Jim Shaut discussed several recently received bids for replacing the furnaces that heat the town hall. (The Post Office is on a separate heat and electrical system.) He said that a \$8,500 proposal from Griffith for two furnaces seemed high in light of the fact that he had recently installed a 110,000 BTU furnace for \$2,200. He recommended that the Town purchase a single larger furnace, and that the ductwork be reconfigured and a damper be installed to allow the council chamber to be heated independently of the upstairs hall. He also mentioned that the town's two air conditioning units date from 1994 and 1996.

Councilmember Macy stated that an HVAC consultant could be hired for a few hundred dollars to provide advice on the current heating and air conditioning systems. Mayor Beers added that such a consultant could also allay her fears about whether the town's and post office's ductwork was truly separate. Jim Shaut agreed to work with Clerk-Treasurer Polak to find a consultant.

The insulation in the town hall was described as unevenly distributed. The consultant will be asked whether it would be better to blow additional insulation in or hire someone to redistribute the existing insulation with a rake. The consultant will also be asked about the possibility of heating the Council chambers with electric baseboard heaters.

CLASSIFIED ADS

BANISH HOUSEHOLD CLUTTER & SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE. Call Melanie Patt-Corner at "A Place for Everything" Household Organizing Service. 301-263-9482. Member National Association of Professional Organizers.

FOR SALE: "Dauntless" 14' Boston Whaler, Load Rite Trailer and 60 hp Mercury Engine. \$9,400. Call 301-229-2163

CHEF JR. is offering cooking classes for young chefs, ages 5-12. The classes in the fall, beginning November 16, are held on Wednesdays, 4:00-5:30 in Glen Echo. They will last for 4 weeks, featuring breakfast and brunch, light snacks and lunch, dinner, and dessert. There are also specialty classes available on some Saturdays, 10:00-12:30. The upcoming Saturday classes are a one time class, \$55.00 for each class: November 19--Thanksgiving, and December 10--Christmas/Hanukkah. Also available are *birthday parties and private/semi-private classes*. For more information, call Angie 301-320-7714, or chefjr.1@verizon.net.



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.

FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE AT PHARMACY NOV. 19, DEC. 1

Inoculations against influenza will be given at the Glen Echo Pharmacy on Nov. 19 and Dec. 1 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The cost is \$25.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

6005 Princeton Ave.	\$775,000
6104 Harvard Ave.	\$675,000
6000 Harvard	\$1,050,000 (under contract)

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YELLOW BARN ART SHOW FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

A spectacular art show and art sale will be held in the Yellow Barn and Stone Tower at Glen Echo Park on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from Nov. 4-27. The proceeds of this Paint for the Cure will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Call 301-371-5593 or visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for details.

CORRECTION

The article about the stop sign on Oxford Road that appeared in last month's issue should have said that the traffic officials responsible for saying they did not think a stop sign was needed at that location were from the National Park Service, not the National Highway Department.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 14—8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall
Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

Landscape Design • Installation • Decks
Retaining Walls • Maintenance • Hauling • Gutters



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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night
at Sally McGunnigle's
15 Vassar Circle*

Tuesday, November 15, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-320-3755

BANNOCKBURN CRAFT AND ART SHOW THIS SUNDAY

On Sunday, Nov. 6 the annual **Bannockburn Craft and Art Show** will be held at the Bannockburn Clubhouse from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.. Wares include jewelry, pottery, African baskets, woven clothing, silk scarves, fused glass, t-shirts, photography and more. The sale features artisans from Bannockburn and beyond, and benefits the renovation fund for the club house. Go up Bannockburn Drive to the top of the hill and turn left on Laverock Lane and immediately left into the club house drive. For information, call 301-229-4045.

DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR

HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST--Saturday, December 10.

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