

# The Echo

## The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904

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November 2006

### **BUILDING PERMIT INFORMATION THE OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

By Phyllis Daen

The town cannot do building inspections because it does not have a building code. The Montgomery County building code applies within the town, and all inspections are conducted by the county, Mayor Debbie Beers said at the Oct. 9 town council meeting. The town does not have either the manpower or the expertise to conduct such inspections, she said.

Since the town has no zoning authority, the town also does not provide information about zoning requirements. It is each individual's responsibility to learn about which county permits will be required for any construction project. Any construction that requires a county permit also requires a town permit. The town publishes a brochure entitled "Building in Glen Echo" which is available at the town hall.

The new town building permit will require each homeowner seeking a permit to show his or her plans to adjoining and confronting property owner and, where possible, to obtain a signature indicating that those owners have reviewed the plans. This requirement will aid the town in the oversight of the building process.

In planning any project, individuals need to be aware that building permits will usually require that a bond be posted for repairs to streets and sidewalks that might be damaged in the construction. They also need to consider whether the project will require curb cuts related to residential entrances and d

—continued on page 3

### **13 MARYLAND CANDIDATES SPOKE HERE OCTOBER 29**

By Carlotta Anderson

In an heartening response to the town's invitation to appear at a "Meet the Candidates" forum at the Glen Echo Town Hall on Sunday, Oct. 29, 13 of the 18 candidates for the November 9 election came to state their position on current political issues.

Both candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, Chris Van Hollen, and Jeffrey M. Stein, spoke. Both candidates for the Maryland State Senate, Brian E. Frosh and Robert F. Dyer, Jr. were represented, the latter by his son, a candidate himself for the Maryland State House. All six of those running for the three seats in the Maryland State House, District 16 were present. The Republican candidate for Montgomery County Executive, Chuck Floyd, came, but not his opponent, Isiah Leggett. Both incumbent Howard A. Denis and Roger Berliner spoke on behalf of their candidacy for Montgomery County Council.

There was a disappointing turnout of around 35 local residents for this unusual and very convenient opportunity. It was the first such forum held in Glen Echo.

Spearheader of the forum was Town Councilman Dan Macy, who organized the event with resident Tom Manatos, who is on the staff of Rep. Nancy Pelosi. They contacted the candidates via email, in some cases several times, and got

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## THE ECHO

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♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

## CANDIDATE FORUM (FROM PAGE 1)

town sponsorship of the affair.

Assisting at forum were Craig Hanna, Kathleen and Mark Wolf, and Jim and Carlotta Anderson. Jamie Platt set up the public address system. The hall was decorated with red, white, and blue balloons.

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**Town Office: 301-320-4041**

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**E-Mail: [townhall@glenecho.org](mailto:townhall@glenecho.org)**

**Office: 6106 Harvard Avenue; mailing address: Box 598, Glen Echo, MD 20812**

**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-3:30 or by appointment**

### MAYOR

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>



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Adult Education 9:15 am

Choral Eucharist 10:30 am

Sunday School & Nursery Care 10:30 am

### ■ MONDAY

Taizé Service (*First Monday*) 7:30 pm

Contemplative Eucharist (*Third Monday*) 7:30 pm

### ■ WEDNESDAY

Morning Prayer & Breakfast 8:30 am

The Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm

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## RESIDENT'S SHORT STORIES RECEIVE AWARDS

"Harvard Man," a short story by Michelle Brafman, recently won the F. Scott Fitzgerald Short Story award. In addition to gaining a handsome prize, the story will be published in the Fall 2007 issue of *Potomac Review*, a prestigious national literary journal.

Michelle was honored at an Oct. 14 ceremony along with the 2006 honoree, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jane Smiley.

She also won the fiction competition of *Lilith* magazine, a national magazine dealing with Jewish women's issues. Her story, "Sylvia's Spoon," will appear in the winter issue of *Lilith*.

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 13—8:00 p.m.  
Glen Echo Town Hall  
Contact the clerk-treasurer to add an item to the agenda

## BUILDING PERMITS (FROM PAGE 1)

driveways.

Some town residents objected to the town's proposed fee for building permits, which, under the draft ordinances, would have been \$100. At the suggestion of town resident Rene Springuel, the council instead adopted a fee equal to the greater of 10 % of the final country permit fee or \$10.

*(Ed. Note: The new ordinances—which could be approved next month—would require that residents get a building permit within seven days of getting a county building permit, although this time period might be waived. It would also give the applicant, the adjoining and facing property owners or the town council an opportunity to request a public hearing before the issuance of a building permit.)*

### FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS AT CLARA BARTON CENTER

Free blood pressure screenings are offered the third Wednesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center. The center is located at 7425 MacArthur Blvd.

## AROUND TOWN

The Little Flower Church, now on Massachusetts Ave. but formerly represented by a chapel in Glen Echo on upper Cornell Ave., on Oct. 7 celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the blessing of the cornerstone of St. Agnes Church, as the chapel was formally known. It was, nevertheless, called the "Little Flower" chapel in Glen Echo....

Some residents may have been wondering who the Charles F. Mercer was that the new canal boat at Great Falls Tavern was named after. As a Virginia Congressman from 1817-1839 he authored or supported legislation that made it possible to organize the C&O Canal Company in 1828. He then became the first president of the Canal Company, according to "Along the Towpath," a publication of the C&O Canal Association...

The community blood drive scheduled to take place Oct. 1 at the Clara Barton Community Center was moved to the Glen Echo Town Hall because of a scheduling conflict. Unfortunately, most town residents were not aware of the change. Mayor Debbie Beers and her son, Andrew, volunteered at the check-in desk for the blood drive.

Michael Bobbitt of Wellesley Circle had a starring role in the performances of "Teddy Roosevelt and the Treasure of Ursa Major" at the Kennedy Center last month...

A group of Cabin John citizens has planned a memorial at the Clara Barton Community Center to honor the memory of Diane Leatherman, who died in January. The memorial at the entrance consists of an Osage Crepe Myrtle, which has already been planted, and an 8' steel bench with a memorial plaque...

### Alicia's Stretch & Tone Yoga

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**EERIE FILM WITH ORIGINAL MUSIC SHOWN AT HALLOWEEN PARTY**

The adult Halloween party on Saturday, Oct. 28, featured a silent horror film made in 1920 in Germany. It was accompanied by music written and performed for the film by John Battema.

The film "The Golem: How He Came Into the World" was a version of the golem legend set in 16<sup>th</sup> century Prague. After the film, members of the audience spoke at length with composer Battema about silent films and his creation of the keyboard music to accompany this particular one.

The event was part of the regular last-Saturday-of-the-month film festival in Glen Echo and was arranged by town council members Dan Macy and Steve Matney..


**GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES**

7300 University Ave.	\$735,000
5906 Oxford Rd. (under contract)	\$859,000

**PROPERTIES FOR SALE**

6105 Yale Ave.	\$795,000
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Sunday School .....9:30 am

Sunday Services.....11:00 am

Wednesday Activities .....7:00 pm

Mid-Week Bible Study.... Vassar Circle

*LADIES OF GLEN ECHO*

*You are invited to Ladies Night at Jane Stevenson's*  
*6106 Yale Ave.*

*Wednesday, November 15, 8:00 p.m.*

*Please RSVP 301-229-3578*


**LOCAL CONCERT NOVEMBER 12**

The Metropolitan Woodwind Quintet will present a unique program of works by French and German composers of the twentieth century on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 5:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer on Dunrobbin Dr. at MacArthur Blvd.

The music will be by August Klughardt, Jacques Ibert, Paul Hindemith, and Eugene Bozza. A free-will offering will be received. Wine and cheese reception to follow.

For more information check [www.redeemerbethesda.org](http://www.redeemerbethesda.org)

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## RESIDENT'S SCULPTURES TO BE UNVEILED THIS MONTH

The 11 animal sculptures created by Raya Bodnarchuk will be installed at the Forest Glen Pedestrian Bridge in November. Townspeople will be invited to be present after the date is known.

The sculptures represent a commission to the artist from several county groups. They depict animals, reptiles, and birds from this area and are currently being cast in bronze at a foundry in Baltimore.

The sculptures will be for sale as well.

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## ELECTRONICS DROP-OFF PROGRAM FOR RECYCLING

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase free-cycle group has announced that no longer wanted electronics and computers can be recycled through a student-run recycling program which has collected over 2,300 items to date. All items may be delivered free except for a \$6 charge for monitors to cover the proper disposal of the 5-10 lbs. of lead and leaded glass that is in each unit.

Acceptable items are: Fax/Copier/Printer Ink Cartridges, Laser and Inkjet Cartridges, Used Cell Phones, Laptops (w/ power cord), PDAs (any type), Computers/CPUs, Monitors, Printers, Keyboards, Computer Speakers & Peripherals, Scanners, Small Fax & Copiers.

All items collected will be shipped and refurbished/recycled for reuse by Access Computers. All toxics will be disposed of according to EPA guidelines. This is a ZERO LANDFILL program.

Drop donations on the porch at 3630 Everett Street, NW (a small one-way street off the intersection of Nebraska Ave. & Reno Rd.) any time, day or night.

Questions? Contact Nick Morgan at nmorgan@maret.org

## GLEN ECHO'S MYSTERIOUS "BRIDGE TO NOWHERE"

By Carlotta Anderson

"A Bridge to Nowhere" is what it is sometimes called, and it's right here in Glen Echo. You drive under the overpass bridge every time you take the short access road from the Clara Barton Parkway to MacArthur Blvd. You probably have never thought about it.

It's almost impossible to reach, but if you walk along MacArthur Blvd. past the Irish Inn you can probably see the section of highway that goes nowhere through the overgrowth.

A reader of "John Kelly's Washington" in *The Washington Post* asked about it recently. "Answer Man," as Kelly calls himself, investigated and learned that it was part of the original plans for the Clara Barton Parkway (or George Washington Parkway, as it was called at the time).

As he wrote, in 1930 Congress approved the construction of a scenic parkway on both sides of the river. There would be two lanes in each direction and it would end at Mt. Vernon in Virginia and Fort Washington in Maryland.

When the Park Service got around to actually building the Maryland parkway in the 1960s that was still the plan, according to Matthew Virta, cultural resource manager for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The "bridge to nowhere" was constructed as a two-lane section of the divided parkway outgoing from D.C. and was intended to run parallel to the existing stretch. Prematurely, as it turned out.

The Park Service rather belatedly determined that it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to acquire all the privately-owned parcels of land needed to create such a wide roadway. It had bought land piecemeal, expecting that all the pieces could eventually be linked, but faced opposition from landowners, environmentalists and politicians.

Lacking sufficient space in the portion below Glen Echo, engineers finally came up with a cantilevered design for the portion below Glen Echo. Elsewhere, the parkway had to be limited to only two lanes instead of four.

Some strange remnants of the original plan still exist in the woods next to the parkway. Five-foot-high concrete columns topped by manholes stick up, marking the level at which the original road would have been built.

Plans to continue the Maryland side of the parkway from D.C. to Ft. Washington were abandoned. Apparently it wasn't considered worth the trouble to tear down the concrete Bridge to Nowhere.

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## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

October 9

Three copies of a three-volume overview of the effects of the **recent flood** are now available at the town office for residents' perusal. It is the National Flood Insurance Study...

It is imperative that the **furnace and air conditioning system** for the town hall be updated very soon, Mayor Beers told the council. Resident Jim Shaut presented a specific proposal for the work that the town has obtained with a cost of approximately \$41,000. Since the original heating and air-conditioning systems are considered inadequate at this time, repairs need to be started very soon, before the existing system dies, the mayor said...

The mayor also brought up the need for **street repairs**. She presented information about the recent experience with such repairs in Takoma Park and said its representatives offered to be available to Glen Echo as the town prepares to take on a similar extensive updating of our streets. She pleaded that we take advantage of the views of experts as we proceed rather than allowing individual homeowners to direct the street repairs in front of their homes and/or to have individual vetos of the larger projects...

Three residents of upper Princeton Ave. expressed concerns about the **speed of drivers** traveling up Princeton Ave. to MacArthur Blvd. There was discussion about how children at play might be protected. The possibility of a speed bump was discussed. No action was taken...

Town council members Eve Arber and Nancy Long attended the Sept. 21 **Maryland Municipal League** meeting which was held at the Glen Echo Town Hall...

--Phyllis Daen

## LET YOUR GARDEN FEED THE BIRDS

Before you start snipping and removing the heads and stalks of retiring summer plants, remember that many birds will feed on the seeds of flower heads such as coneflowers, tall marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, coreopsis, and sunflowers, the Potomac Conservancy suggests.

Leaving plant material for the winter also provides protection for birds. If you can leave some leaf litter where it falls, towhees and other birds will appreciate the insects.

## INTERSEX FISH ON THE POTOMAC

This is not the title of a campy '50s drive-in movie, but the latest in a string of insults upon the river that provides our drinking water.

Male fish in the Potomac and its tributaries have been found developing eggs. The first intersex fish were found in the region in 2002, and there are still no answers as to why this is happening, according to the Potomac Conservancy. Research currently indicates that pollutants are likely to blame. So called "endocrine disruptors" that affect the hormones within fish are causing this problem.

Thanks to real bipartisan concern on the part of our local members of Congress, this issue may be gaining the focused and intensive attention it deserves. You can call your member of Congress and ask them to get the EPA to stop wasting time and get to the bottom of this issue. To date, Rep. Van Hollen, Rep. Moran, Rep. Davis, Rep. Cummings, and Rep. Gilchrist have been taking a leadership role on this issue, the Potomac Conservancy says.



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## RESIDENTS CAN COMMUNICATE THROUGH NEW YAHOO GROUP

A Yahoo Group has been setup for the residents of the town to use for communicating with each other. The group, titled simply "GlenEcho" is designed to be an easy way for us to send emails to each other, list items on a central calendar, and post any pictures we might want to share with each other. Membership to the group is restricted to residents of Glen Echo. Best of all, it is free!

Do you need a baby sitter? Are you willing to cut lawns this summer? Just send an email to the entire town using the Yahoo group. There are currently nearly 30 members. If you're not a member and want to join, send an email to Dan Macy at Dan@Macy.com. The group is located at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GlenEcho/>

### TREASURER'S REPORT

September 2006

Dennis Alexander (audit)	\$1,019.10
PEPCO (streetlights)	\$388.90
Maid Brigade (3 cleanings)	\$326.25

## CRAFT AND ARTS SHOW IN BANNOCKBURN NOV. 5

Jewelry, pottery, silk art, white-line woodcuts, fused glass, knits, elegant wastebaskets, wool applique, photos, wall plaques, candles and other hand-crafted gifts will be for sale at the annual craft and arts show at the Bannockburn Clubhouse on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The show benefits the historic clubhouse.

The clubhouse is located at 6314 Bannockburn Drive, Bethesda. For more information, call 301-229-9649.

### FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

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

Saturday, November 25, 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.

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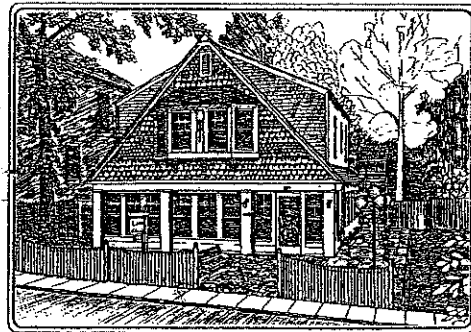
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# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## THE PUPPET THEATRE

**Hansel and Gretel**  
**Through November 17**  
**The Nutcrackers begins November 24**  
 Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30  
 Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00  
 Tickets: \$7.00 Call 301-320-6668

## ADVENTURE THEATRE

**Dorothy Meets Alice**  
**To December 3**  
 Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30  
 Tickets: \$8.00 Call 301-320-5331

## YELLOW BARN STUDIO & GALLERY

Individual and group art exhibits can be viewed every Saturday and Sunday from noon-5:00 p.m.  
 Exhibits change weekly.  
*(The Gallery is temporarily located on the third floor of the main arcade building.)*

The annual Members Show at the end of the year will be held in the new Yellow Barn studio now under construction. It is being built to match the Chautauqua style of the stone tower. With this expansion, it will become one of the larger studios in the Washington area, just behind the Corcoran, Montgomery College, and the Torpedo Factory.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FREE—LARGE BAG OF PELLETTED DOLOMITIC LIMESTONE FOR GARDENS.** Anderson, 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: 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

## WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE DISCUSSING?

If you want to know what issues will be on the agenda at the monthly council meeting all you have to do is notify the clerk/treasurer that you want to be put on the agenda email list. Then you won't miss being present for a discussion you wish to participate in. Just email the clerk/treasurer at [townhall@glenecho.org](mailto:townhall@glenecho.org) with your email address.



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