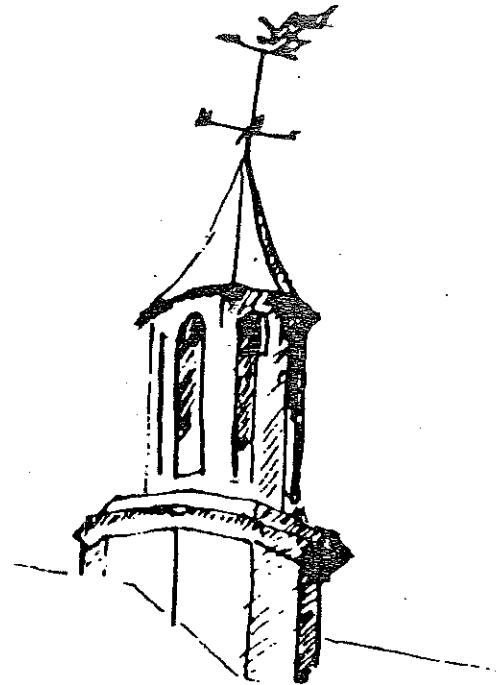


# The Echo

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

---



September 2006

### TOWN WILL ENTER FEDERAL FLOOD PROGRAM

By Dave Chitwood

The Federal Insurance Administration has offered the town and its residents the opportunity to enter into the federal flood program because a tiny corner of Glen Echo was added to the flood plain six months ago when it redrew the map of the 100-year Potomac River flood plain.

Although no homes are constructed on this land, the fact that part of the town now lies in the flood plain would allow any resident in the town to participate in the federal flood program—if the Mayor and Town Council agreed to a resolution prepared by the Federal Insurance Administration.

Mayor Beers circulated this "Resolution of Intent to Enter the National Flood Insurance Program" at the August town council meeting. She added that only some types of damage would be covered. For example, damage caused by a malfunctioning sump pump would be one example of an exclusion.

The mayor pointed out that no town resident would be compelled to purchase insurance. Councilman Macy pointed out that the ability to purchase flood insurance would be a great positive element and that his insurance agent recommended its purchase.

Town Resident (and Realtor) Eleanor Balaban described a situation in which a mortgage for a home in Cabin

—continued on page 4

### TOWN PLANNING STRICTER BUILDING ORDINANCE

By Dave Chitwood

The town attorney has prepared a draft revised building ordinance which would provide fines for violations of the town's requirement that a town building permit be obtained for all construction in Glen Echo. The current ordinance requires that a town permit, which costs \$2, be obtained within seven days of receipt of the county permit.

The law provides that the town has 30 days to file an appeal after a building permit is obtained from the county. However, the county usually does not inform the Town of granted building permits, and residents or builders do not always comply with this request. In at least one case, a resident refused to obtain a town building permit.

The draft revised building ordinance has several provisions. First, neighbors of the applicant must certify that they have seen the construction plans. Second, if the permit was not obtained, a municipal violation would occur at a cost of \$500. Each day beyond the seven-day window would be regarded as a separate violation with its own \$500 fine. (Maryland law limits municipal violation fines to \$1,000, hence the need for multiple infractions in order to have meaningful economic clout.)

Mayor Beers said she believed the council could readily discuss each permit at a regular council meeting in order to decide if a special public meeting were necessary. Approximately six permits a year are issued.

—continued on page 3

## THE ECHO

Published unofficially by, for and in the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of *The Echo* on file at Little Falls and Rockville libraries. Total circulation: 190. Distributed the first weekend of the month.

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

**ASST. EDITOR** Diana Hudson-Taylor

**REPORTERS** David Chitwood, Susan Grigsby

**DISTRIBUTION** Brockie and Jane Stevenson

Charlie Wells

Maire Hewitt

Isabelle Umpleby

Leland Schwartz

**CIRCULATION** Susan Grigsby

**Next Deadline September 22**

**Printed by Allied Printing, Bethesda**

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.

♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

MARYLAND

20812

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

**Town Office Fax: 301-320-3639**

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

**6106 Harvard Avenue or 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>

## CLASSIFIED ADS

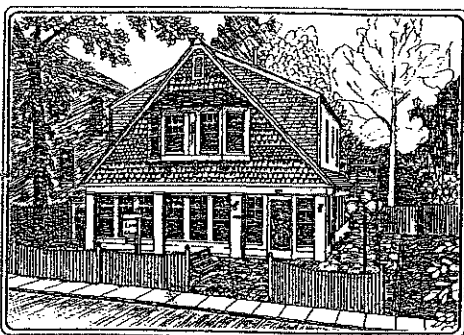
Do your knives, scissors, mowers, garden tools need sharpening? On Saturday, Sept. 9, John Vecchiarelli's sharpening service truck will be parked at Yale and University Aves. beginning at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Vecchiarelli is a professional tradesman who took over the sharpening business from his father 11 years ago. He immigrated here with his family from Italy at age 9, and has lots of interesting stories to tell while working on your tools. From Carol Barton, Yale Ave. resident.

**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.

*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.*

**LAW & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

(301) 229-8500



*Heather Cottage*

*Financial Planning*

## NEW GIRL IN TOWN

**Caitlin Emily Day** is the newest Glen Echo resident, having just come into the world on July 24 at Sibley Hospital weighing seven pounds nine ounces. Caitlin is the daughter of Sophie Keefer and Christopher Day of 1 Vassar Circle. Welcome to Glen Echo, Caitlin.

## CAROUSEL FILM SCHEDULED FOR TOWN HALL SEPTEMBER 17

On Sunday afternoon, September 17, as part of the Town of Glen Echo's Chautauqua series, filmmaker Cintia Cabib will present "Carousel of Memories," an independent documentary about Glen Echo Park's historic Dentzel carousel. The presentation will take place at the Glen Echo Town Hall from 3-5 p.m.

"Carousel of Memories" chronicles the carousel's many roles over its 85-year history: from an amusement park ride, to a symbol for the civil rights movement, to an endangered work of art. The documentary features the carousel operator mother-and-son team of Irene and Max Hurley, Maryland State Senator Gwendolyn Britt, who protested the park's segregation policy in 1960, Town of Glen Echo Councilmember Nancy Long, who led the efforts to save the carousel from being sold, restoration artist Rosa Ragan, and several families, including the Wilsons of University Ave., who recall their happy rides.

The screening will include a question-and-answer session and an invitation to audience members to share their memories of visiting Glen Echo Park and riding the carousel.

## BUILDING ORDINANCE (FROM PAGE 1)

Councilmember Long stressed that the land use decisions of the county should always be examined; had the town blindly followed the decisions of the county, five homes instead of two would have been built at the top of Bryn Mawr Ave.

The mayor added that the town does not need its own building code but would benefit greatly if the county would enforce its own codes. She noted that people who fail to obtain building permits can be imprisoned for a year, although the county prosecutor does not enforce this provision. She added that the town attorney would probably advise the town that some formalized procedure of redress be established in the event a permit were denied.

Town resident Eleanor Balaban pointed out that it often takes the county a month to grant a building permit. Councilmember Matney inquired about the possibility of a town requirement that the town permit be secured within seven days of applying for a permit from the county, in order for the town to have sufficient time for due process.

Because of her concern for residents who through no fault of their own were a day late, the mayor proposed that it be made possible for a violation to be waived in such cases. Councilmember Matney proposed that a "waived by Council" phrase be added.

The mayor said she would circulate a revision for further review.

### NEED AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE?

LOCAL RESIDENT PROVIDES QUALITY WORK  
DAYS, EVENINGS, WEEKENDS, NO EXTRA CHARGES  
OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE--ALL MODELS  
ALL NECESSARY LICENSES AND INSURANCE  
PLENTY OF REFERENCES

CALL ANYTIME 301-365-2155

SAM OSLER  
7105 GARMON ROAD, BETHESDA, MD

WSSC #20215

MARYLAND HVAC #16047



**Eleanor Balaban**

*MacArthur Blvd. Corridor Specialist*

Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.

Main: 301-907-7600 Direct: 301-215-6875

[www.EleanorBalaban.com](http://www.EleanorBalaban.com)

"Let's talk about  
real estate along  
MacArthur Blvd."



## AROUND TOWN

Former resident **Edd Barrows** has just published a book about nature in the local area called "Nature, Gardens, and Georgetown." It discusses biodiversity, conservation, gardens, and local history as seen through the eyes of actual and plausible people. Edd is a research field biologist and professor at Georgetown University. The 112 page book, with 149 illustrations is available at the Georgetown University bookstore for \$15.

The recently-published "Glen Echo: The Remarkable Saga of a Very Small Town" by **Carlotta Anderson** was reviewed in the *Gazette* last month. It quotes her as saying that "re-creating a historical narrative from the memories of residents as well as ferreting out facts from documents, previous articles and newspapers is like participating in a detective hunt."

**Eleanor Balaban** won three ribbons in the Montgomery County Fair for her quilts.

Also winning competitions at the county fair were several **Malmgren family members**. **Andy** won the Blue Ribbon in the Watermelon Seed Spitting contest with a winning spit of 29 feet, 5 inches, besting the second place contender and defending champion by 11 feet. Sons **Ben**, 8, and **Hank**, 6, won T-shirts by finishing 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The Malmgrens vow to never have another seedless watermelon in their home.

Although Cabin John Creek has been cleaned of the **sewage spill** that occurred during July rains, there is always a certain level of pollutants in it. The county Dept. of Environmental Protection does not recommend submerging oneself in the creek and strongly recommends washing one's hands after coming in contact with the creek.

A 16-year-old female from Gaithersburg was arrested on Aug. 18 after police observed three suspects leaving the **Captain's Market** in Cabin John at 1:30 a.m. One male and one female suspect escaped. The suspect arrested was charged with second degree burglary, theft over \$500 and malicious destruction of property over \$500.

A **new canal boat** is scheduled to be delivered to the C&O Canal at Great Falls by the end of this month. The National Park Service is looking for volunteers to help operate the boat, which will be drawn by mules and take visitors along the canal from Great Falls to Swain' Lock. To volunteer, or for more information, call Bill Justice at 301-714-2214.

## LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

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

*Thursday, September 14, 8:00 p.m.*

*All her quilts will be on display*

*Please RSVP 301-229-7990*

## FLOOD INSURANCE (FROM PAGE 1)

John on the 100-year flood plain was obtained only with great difficulty. She questioned if the town's participation in this program would make it more difficult for residents to secure mortgages. Mayor Beers replied that this would not be likely, since not a single house in Glen Echo lies on the flood plain.

A motion to approve the resolution was passed unanimously, and the council planned to sign it after the meeting adjourned.

## SUNOCO



### KENWOOD SUNOCO CENTER

*(formerly Kenwood Mobil)*

5201 RIVER ROAD

BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20816

PH: (301) 652-9527 • FAX: (301) 652-1138

**Michael Carrick**  
OWNER

**Dick Spicer**  
SERVICE MANAGER

**AUTO REPAIR - FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC  
FACTORY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE**

## FRANK POWERS

Bird and nature lover Frank Powers died suddenly on Monday, August 7, of a heart attack at his University Ave. home. A memorial service was held on Aug. 12 at the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase, a fitting site for a man with such an avid passion for birding.

In the six-part service, many of Frank's friends and business associates testified to his passion for advocating equality and rights for the working people in this country, in Burma, and elsewhere. Last year, he and his wife, Glenda, traveled to Thailand at the invitation of Burmese pro-democracy organizations in order to provide advice on communications strategies that would serve to bring democracy to Burma.

He developed a video for the Mine Workers Union, and created strategies or worked as a mediator for other unions. He was president and CEO of Fingerhut, Powers & Associates, a communications firm specializing in legislative, organizing, and collective bargaining campaigns for unions in every employment sector.

Frank was born in Baltimore, one of four boys, and attended Wheeling College in West Virginia. At the memorial service, his brothers spoke of his idealism and strong desire for social justice that was evident from an early age.

During the family's years in Glen Echo, Frank spent many hours along the Potomac River and the C&O Canal, observing and photographing birds. He contributed several articles to *The Echo*.

Frank leaves his wife, Glenda, his son, Matthew, a student at American University, and daughter, Cindy, who attends Elon University.

--Susan Grigsby contributed to this tribute.

### COMMUNITY CRAB FEAST IN CABIN JOHN SEPTEMBER 9

Mark your calendars for Cabin John's 37th Annual Crab & Chicken Feast on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 2-6 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd.

A local tradition since the late 1960s, the community feast allows the Cabin John community and neighboring communities celebrate their economic and social diversity in a relaxed manner. Features include delicious food and refreshments, children's bike parade to the feast, live music, children's entertainment, and Cabin John memorabilia and t-shirts for sale.

Tickets are available for \$11 at the door, and \$10 if bought in advance.

### FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Monday, September 11, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, September 17, 3:00 p.m.—CAROUSEL FILM

Thursday, September 21, 6:00-11:00 p.m.  
MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE MEETING

Saturday, September 30, 7:30 p.m.—GLEN ECHO FILM FESTIVAL



Cheese, imported and domestic ▼  
▼ Organically-grown produce  
Nuts, dried fruit, grains & beans sold in bulk ▼  
▼ Health & bodycare, cruelty-free

Serving the community since 1975.

## Bethesda Co-op

301-320-2530 6500 Seven Locks Rd., at MacArthur Blvd. Mon.-Sat. 9-9, Sun. 9-7

## GARDENING WITH TIGERS OF THE SIX-LEGGED KIND

By Edd Barrows

*(A former resident of Wellesley Circle, Edd Barrows is a Professor of Biology at Georgetown University.)*

Many nongardeners certainly don't appreciate that fact that we gardeners have to be a very tough lot to meet our many challenges each year. From May through October, we now have to deal with the ferocious Asian Tiger Mosquito. In 1999, this blood-thirsty fly invaded my garden. It probably entered the U.S. in about 1985, in Houston, Texas, in tire casings from Japan. It is now in at least 24 states of eastern U.S.

Before 1999, I could garden in my yard in shorts and a T-shirt, and get only an occasional mosquito bite. It's a new tougher ball game now. Tiger bites are highly aggravating; further, this mosquito can spread diseases including Dengue fever, Dog Heartworm, encephalitis, West Nile Virus, and Yellow Fever.

---

### TWO REQUESTS FOR TOWN HALL DISCUSSED

A request for use on the town hall on Saturday, Oct. 28 as a backup venue for a party in case of rain was turned down by the town council last month because it is the scheduled date of the town Halloween party as well as the regular last-Saturday-of-the-month film presentation.

Councilman Dan Macy indicated that he would be uncomfortable with moving the town party and movie to Sunday night, the only other reasonable night. Councilman Steve Matney agreed, adding that he was not only uncomfortable in taking such an action so that the hall would serve merely as a backup site, but that there was a good chance that the hall would be unused on Saturday if the town party were moved to Sunday.

Another request for free use of the hall on Sunday nights in the winter was also refused. The requestor, Donna Barker, used the hall last winter to teach her blues dancing classes when the stone tower was being renovated. Last year she was granted use of the hall for free, but that request came from the Park Partnership, whereas this year's request was directly from Ms. Barker.

The council finally concluded that Ms. Barker could use the hall if she paid for it, if she accommodated the schedule of Chautauqua events expected to take place on Sunday evenings, and any other event the town wished to hold.

--Dave Chitwood

Anytime day or night she is likely to find an unprotected part of my body from which to extract her delicious blood meal. To reduce chances of getting bites I cover my skin with heavy, loose cloths and insect repellent. Once I but forgot to cover a few places. Before I knew it, I had seven bites (including on my scalp and on my back, where the microvampires bit through my shirt).

The Tigers have now trained me to look for any standing water in my yard daily. These mosquitoes can develop in a very small "pond," even in a cap from a jar. There are small ponds in my gutters when debris stops the water from draining fully. To remove these ponds, I clean the gutter every several days. When I am in a hurry, I squirt dishwashing detergent into the gutter ponds. But even when I control the Tigers in my yard, their armies still invade from my neighborhood.

Dinner on your deck? Well yes, if you are protected from the Tigers. A citronella candle helps. Covering your skin with clothes and insect repellent (with DEET) help even more. Some people recommend a repellent with about 35% DEET for effective mosquito control. A good application should last for hours, but it depends on how much you sweat.

The Tigers are just one of the thousand of alien, invasive species that have invaded our bodies, farms, forests, gardens, livestock, yards, and elsewhere, creating havoc and costing the U.S. about \$270 billion annually.

#### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 11—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the clerk-treasurer to add an item to the agenda

#### Digital Handyman, Inc.

Personal Computer Solutions

240.447.6535

Andy Malmgren  
Glen Echo, MD

Microsoft  
CERTIFIED  
Professional

CompTIA  
A+ Certified

On-site  
computer  
installation and  
repair

Virus removal  
Maintenance  
Upgrades  
Networks  
Training  
Security

## TALKIN' AND FIDDLIN' AT LOCKHOUSE 8

Eco-historian Hayden Matthews will tell river stories at the Lockhouse 8 River Center on the C&O Canal on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 3:00 p.m. He will speak as part of the Potomac Conservancy's Voices of the River programs at the historic lockhouse. One story will tell of the failed escape of the 76 slaves aboard the sailing ship 'Pearl' in 1848. The events preceding and following their escape highlight the gross injustices and hypocrisy of slave trading openly thriving in the Nation's capital prior to the Civil War.

On Sunday, Oct. 1, at 3:00 p.m., environmentalist Albert "Abby" Ybarra will talk about Native American ways of knowing water. He will compare tribal relationships with water to basic principals of water science. Ybarra is the former Community Environmental Education Coordinator for the District of Columbia.

On Sunday, October 15, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Voices of the River programs will wrap up with "Fiddlin' on the Porch." The fiddle and guitar duo called Kitchen Gorilla will present a medley of river-oriented folk strumming.

The River Center at Lockhouse 8 is located near Cabin John and can be reached by car from the Lock 8 parking pullout on Clara Barton Parkway, east, or by walking from 79<sup>th</sup> Street in Cabin John or from the towpath.

*Paid Advertisement*



### Glen Echo Baptist Church

*Serving Glen Echo families since 1939*

*Dr. Ed Curtis, Th.D., Pastor*

## Bringing God's Truth to Life

Sunday School . . . . . 9:30 am

Sunday Services . . . . . 11:00 am

Wednesday Activities . . . . . 7:00 pm

Mid-Week Bible Study . . . Vassar Circle

## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

August 14

Planning for **street improvements** continues. The council is considering approaching several firms, including A. Morton Thomas, which the town has used in the past. The Mayor also commented that Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak had contacted E.E. Lyons about performing emergency street repairs, and it was noted that WSSC had completed an emergency asphalt patch at the top of Yale Avenue.

The mayor and council plan to meet with county officials familiar with **storm water management** to discuss reducing future damage like what occurred during the heavy rains this summer. The date tentatively set for the meeting was Sept. 7. Mayor Beers pointed out that purpose of the meeting is merely to discuss possible future actions. The county has acknowledged that it is county responsibility to fund the management of storm water, since town residents pay taxes to the county for this purpose.

In response to the complaints of homeowners along upper Princeton Ave. that their **sidewalks are so low** that storm water pours into their property, the town has received a quotation from contractor Charles Cooley of \$17,750 for a concrete block sidewalk. The council agreed to defer a decision on the bid until after the street repair engineering consultant provides a report. The Mayor agreed, but stated that the engineer should be hired soon.

Mr. Cooley also made a bid of \$1,400 to erect a **stone wall in the town hall parking lot** to deflect torrents of water such as those that occurred earlier in the summer, which surged into nearby yards. The stone wall would allow the water to drain property. Mr. Cooley's bid was accepted unanimously.

--Dave Chitwood

### Design that Fits, LLC

...your room, your style, and your budget

Rebecca Subbian

*Interior Re-designer + Decorator*

Bethesda, MD

Phone: 301-257-9229

[www.designthatfits.com](http://www.designthatfits.com)



# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## PARK NEWS

The Yellow Barn Studio is under construction now and is expected to be completed in December. The Yellow Barn expects to be fully operational by the winter term that starts around Jan. 20.

Additional courses and instructors will be available, making the Yellow Barn Studio one of the larger studios in the D.C. area, behind the Corcoran, Montgomery College and the Torpedo factory.

Planning continues on the reconstruction of the fire-damaged maintenance shed, for which the National Park Service apparently has funds. A few roof designs are being discussed, and park artists may be provided interior storage space within it.

## DON'T MISS THE PARK'S LABOR DAY ART SHOW

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Art Show will take place in the Park's Spanish Ballroom from Saturday, Sept. 2 to Monday, Sept. 4 from noon to 6:00 p.m. The historic Dentzel Carousel will be operating throughout the show.

The opening reception will be Friday, Sept. 1, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The show will feature the work of more than 150 regional artists - both children and adults - many of which are either students or teachers at Glen Echo Park. Artworks for sale include sculpture, paintings, ceramics, glass and jewelry.

Artists of all ages and skill levels are invited to display original works of art in this non-juried show. For information call (301) 634-2222 or visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org)

## PARK OPEN HOUSE SHOWCASES FALL CLASSES

An Open House at Glen Echo Park on Sunday, Sept. 10, will introduce the wide range of visual arts, dance and performance classes being offered at the park this fall. It will take place from noon to 4 p.m.

The Open House will feature free classes and demonstrations. Visitors can try belly dancing; explore "Music Together," a music and movement program for children; or participate in demonstrations of polymer clay crafts, silk painting, beading and kite-making. The park's newest classes will also be highlighted, including movement classes in Nia technique and hoola-hooping.

Visitors will also be able to view artists at work in their studios.

Lindy, swing, and waltz dance demonstrations and participatory classes will be held in the Spanish Ballroom and Bumper Car Pavilion. Other programs include a family dance from 3 to 5 p.m. and a Ballroom Tea Dance from 3 to 6 p.m.

## BLOOD DRIVE OCTOBER 1

The next community blood drive will take place on Sunday, Oct. 1 at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. Please contact Karen Melchar ([ardenroad@mac.com](mailto:ardenroad@mac.com) or 301-229-9049) if you are willing and able to donate blood or if you can man the sign-in table or help in other ways.


## GLEN ECHO HISTORY, WALKING TOUR BOOKLETS STILL AVAILABLE

Each Glen Echo household is entitled to one free copy of the recently-published history of the town, "Glen Echo: The Remarkable Saga of a Very Small Town," as well as "A Walking Tour of Glen Echo: With Tales and Pictures from its First Hundred Years."

If you have not already picked up a copy of both these booklets you can obtain them at the Town Hall by either visiting it during regular office hours (see p. 2) or calling 301-320-4041 to make other arrangements.

Additional copies of the history are available for residents for \$10 each, \$5 less than for the general public. For the walking tour, the price for residents is \$5. It sells to the public for \$10. Please make your check payable to: "The Town of Glen Echo."

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



HUGHES

LANDSCAPING

P.O. Box 498  
Cabin John, Maryland 20818

John Hughes  
301-589-6040