



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ FEBRUARY 2017

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The Mayor was absent from the January 10 Council meeting, but all four Council Members, the clerk, and a half dozen residents were in attendance. Council Member Matney led the meeting.

Glen Echo Park Report

National Park Service representative Aaron LaRocca kicked off the meeting with the good news that three new projects have been approved for funding, including the restoration of the Netherlands Carillon adjacent to Arlington Cemetery. Each Saturday throughout the summer, guest musicians come and play the bells there from 6–8 PM, and if you've never been, I'd recommend you grab a picnic blanket, a bottle of wine, and some friends when the weather warms up. Mr. LaRocca also mentioned that NPS is recruiting for a new historic architect, and that there are no updates

on the Cooperative Park Agreement that Montgomery County is still reviewing. At the end of his session, there was a question from the Council about what the new administration would mean for NPS funding, but Mr. LaRocca had no inside information he could share. Indeed, if anyone has information to share on that topic, or on the funding of any federal agency in the new administration, they are urged to contact this paper immediately.

Town Business

Oxford Road resident George Hambrecht stopped by briefly to discuss plans for 6005 Princeton Avenue (purchased last year from

the McFarlands), which will include a two-floor, 850-square-foot addition with minimal impact on the yard. He's now sharing plans with neighbors, moving towards permitting, and is not asking for any variances. After review of the contractors' bids, he's hoping to break ground in February.

During the review of the minutes, Mr. Matney made one small, but important correction. He was quite right to point out that we should not be proclaiming, "the number one crime *is* our area." The Council agreed to revise that

particular line to "the number one crime *in* our area ..." which seems much more appropriate.

There were just a few moments of discussion about upkeep and improvements around the Town. It was reported that Matt McFarland had engaged a surveyor who completed the survey of the right-of-way at the top of Wellesley Circle that the Council requested for the proposed private-use agreement. In addition, there was some discussion about how to improve compliance by MacArthur Boulevard vehi-



6005 Princeton Avenue

THE ECHO

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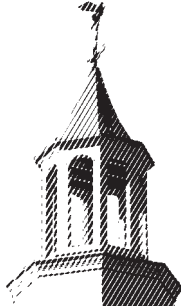
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Next Deadline: February 20, 2017

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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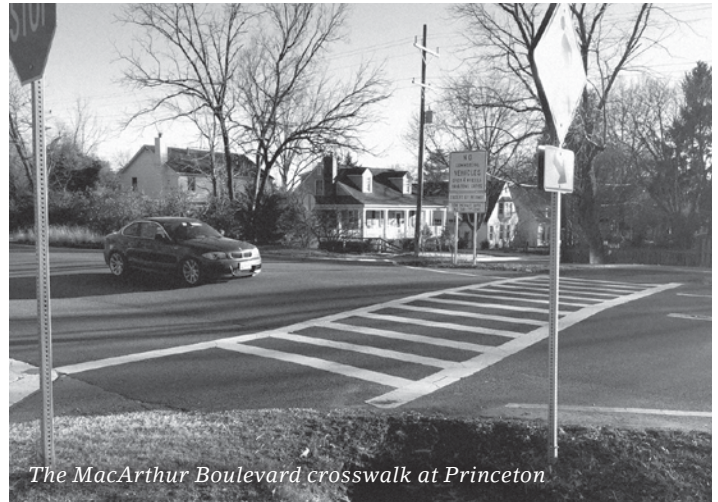
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Next Town Council Meeting: February 13, 2017, 8 PM



The MacArthur Boulevard crosswalk at Princeton

cles traversing the crosswalk at Princeton Avenue, which all seem to speed right past, heedless of whether or not there is a pedestrian waiting to cross. Council Member Stiglitz has been in touch on this issue with the police, who will likely add some temporary signs in the near future. The Council discussed various possibilities for a more permanent and effective solution such as LED lights embedded in the street that could flash at the push of a button.

Town Ordinances

As Mr. Matney said when the Council turned towards the

recodification of the Town's ordinances, "Now for the fun!" The Council posted on the website some slightly revised ordinances that included some quick wins, such as revision of penalties and removal of outdated provisions. The intention was to make that recodification publicly available for comment, and then move quickly towards adoption so that the revised ordinances could serve as a baseline for a much more thorough review.

There was some discussion of the fact that some penalties remain unclear or unchanged, despite the revision of the municipal



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penalties in Article 21. However, the Town lawyer clarified that it was all right to have some specific infractions (such as failure to comply with a stop work order) incur larger penalties than the default ones laid out in Article 21. There was also some public concern about doing away with the ordinance on sediment control. Although it is a County

need to be addressed, and the Council made a call to any interested Glen Echo citizen to join them at Town Hall for a special ordinance review session (date to be determined). The Council intends to review every provision, across multiple special sessions if necessary, until the review is complete. Townsfolk are encouraged to join in that effort, and as

to 1954. He reminded the Council that when we finally remove that provision, we will, in some way, be removing that memory from our official records. So, while progress marches on and laws must keep up with the times, let's be sure to take the time to acknowledge those memories together. Spare a thought for a firehouse that protected all of us, that became a church that comforted many of us, and that may someday soon become homes for new

neighbors to make memories in. And maybe you'll join the upcoming ordinance meeting, have some cookies with your friends and fellow townsfolk, and mark the inexorable passage of time in an unquestionably unique fashion.

Town Expenses

In December 2016, the Town paid \$5,625 to Lee's Tree Service, \$4,160 to Waste Management of Maryland, and \$3,336 to Bolt Legal.

—DAN SPEALMAN



The firehouse at the center of Vassar Circle

responsibility, some felt that the County was abdicating that responsibility. Nonetheless, since the Town does not have the resources or wherewithal to hire a water drainage engineer to enforce sediment control, it was suggested that perhaps the Council should make mention of it in the building permit section when that is revised. Once the Council addressed these public comments, it voted unanimously to approve the recodification.

However, now the challenging and detailed work of revising all of the ordinances will begin. There are more than a few internal inconsistencies that will

a special incentive, Council Member Costello pledged to bring cookies, while resident Edie Springuel offered up cheese and fruit. So now you should have more than enough reason to participate.

And one final thought on that special meeting to tackle the ordinances. One must give resident Renny Springuel his due for causing many attendees to experience something implausible: nostalgia for the ordinances that will be lost. Renny pointed out that Article 7, the one on Fire Prevention, harkens back to the day when there was a firehouse at the center of Vassar Circle from 1935

ELECTION NOTICE

Hear ye, hear ye, citizens of Glen Echo! This is a reminder that the next Town election is May 1. The seats of Council Members **Steve Matney** and **Matt Stiglitz** will be open, as well as the mayorship held by **Debbie Beers**. The term length is four years and now is the time for you to consider a run if you haven't yet. Candidates must be registered Glen Echo voters who have resided in the Town at least one year prior to the election and be at least 25 years of age. They are not required to be U.S. citizens. (To register to vote for Town elections, contact the Clerk-Treasurer, or simply register on election day as you enter the polls. Proof of residency may be requested.)



The *Echo* will publish short statements from any candidates running. **The deadline for submitting your statement about your candidacy to The Echo is March 20**, a couple of weeks before you even have to formally declare. The deadline for officially declaring your candidacy is 20 days before the election or April 11. For that, you must declare in writing to Susan Grigsby, Supervisor, Board of Elections, 7325 University Avenue, Glen Echo, MD 20812. In other words, procrastinators will likely miss the free publicity in *The Echo*.



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OUT AND ABOUT

Shortly after the new year, I was talking with some Glen Echo friends with kids who are a little younger than mine. “When can kids go to Glen Echo Park on their own?” one mom asked. This launched a conversation about the many small milestones that mark the path to kids’ independence. How old are kids when we allow them to play outside (which in Glen Echo often means in the street) without a parent there? When can they walk to the school? The pool? 7-Eleven? The C&O Canal? How do parents know when to give kids more freedom, and when to set a limit?

The unhelpful answer to all these questions is, *it depends*. A cautious and responsible eight-year-old may warrant more freedom than a dreamy eleven-year-old with a habit of reading while walking down the sidewalk.

I sent a survey to a bunch of parents in Town, including those with adult children and older kids, asking the questions above as well as the considerations that go into making these decisions. The survey is unscientific, but the ranges in answers is a good starting place for any parent faced with these questions. To start, I asked respondents what age they would (or did) allow kids to do the following:

Run brief errands within

Glen Echo (such as returning a friend’s toy). Most were between ages five and seven, depending on how far the errand would take the kids.

Play outside (streets, parks, between houses) with peers, with minimal or indirect supervision. Most answers were between six and nine, with many caveats. One parent wrote, “always depending on the child and their friends and how aware and responsible they are about their surroundings.” Another (and really, probably most of us) allows this freedom “as long as I know where they are.”

Go to 7-Eleven for a Slurpee or a hot dog. Answers ranged from 8 to “at least middle school,” with many expressing concern about safety when crossing MacArthur Boulevard.

Walk to Bannockburn pool or elementary school, alone or with friends. Answers ranged from ages 8 through 13. Some replied that it would depend on time of day due to traffic worries. Several said they would allow this at age 10, with a friend.

Go to Glen Echo Park alone or with a friend. This one had a very wide range, from age 6 to 11. One parent would allow a younger child to go with a cell phone or a

walkie talkie. Another would allow it but would follow after in 10–15 minutes.

Go for a hike/bike on the towpath with a friend. Responses ranged from age 10 to “at least 15,” with most requiring a friend and a cell phone.

Traffic on MacArthur Boulevard was a common worry for many parents. Several suggested specific measures for making the artery safer, including a flashing light with a call button at the pedestrian crossing at Princeton Avenue.

Parents offered some

parents want their child to be more independent than they are or don’t see that they still need guidance in basic things. Other parents ... can be too protective which can hold the child’s growth back.”

“The more freedom you give younger kids, the more responsible they’ll be as teenagers.”

“Actually practice responses to faux strangers through role-playing. It’s hard for kids learning to be polite to also learn how to rebuff.”

“Train them and trust them. If they break the rules have consequences.”

“When a kid is ready they will tell you—don’t stifle their growing sense of independence. But do teach kids what they need to be wary of as they gain independence.”

“Don’t compare your child to anyone else’s and be honest about what they need so they may grow into strong, independent, responsible people.”

One parent summed up what many of us feel, regardless of when our kids hit each milestone. “I think as a whole Glen Echo is a pretty awesome place to grow up. There are a lot of opportunities for our kids to roam while feeling protected since safe neighbors/adults are always around and able to help if anything arises.” —ANGELA HIRSCH



great advice to others who are struggling with these issues:

“Parents ... need to give themselves a reality check on who their child is in the moment and who they want their child to be. Sometimes

The spring season will be upon us before we know it. For the passionate gardener, winter is the best time to research what plants and seeds growers are offering. What is introduced as “new” is often “old” and this is particularly true in the world of horticulture. Many nurseries and seed companies rediscover heirloom plants that have fallen out of favor even though they are beautiful, or possibly very flavorful, and sold at a reasonable price. Other new plants are distinctly different and thus have been given a new name. After checking some of my favorite seed sources, I selected both new and heirloom varieties to try. Some I have ordered and others I will track down from vendors at the Philadelphia Flower Show in March.

One exciting source of seeds is Johnny’s Selected Seeds (www.johnnyseeds.com), where I often find new plants to grow. This year, I found a Japanese herb known as saltwort (*Salsola komarovii*) that has a crispy

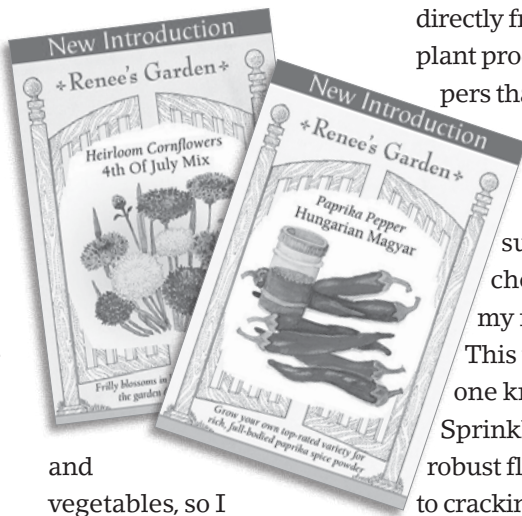
Saltwort



texture, is delicious raw or cooked, and can be used in salads, sushi, and soups, or

HOLLY IN THE IVY

simply served as a green vegetable. Another great find on Johnny’s list is an herb called pipicha (*Porophyllum linaria*), a plant used in Mexican food. It provides a flavor similar to cilantro with a touch of lemon, mint, pine, and anise. Johnny’s also lists a surprising number of interesting new cultivars of herbs



and vegetables, so I recommend checking it out.

Renee’s Garden (www.reneesgarden.com), another good source for heirloom seeds, has several exclusive offerings. If you want to celebrate the Fourth of July with heirloom corn flowers, also called bachelor buttons (*Centaurea cyanus*), try their Fourth of July mix that combines beautiful red, white, and blue flowers. Their radish mix, called Garden Party, produces pink, red, purple, white, and yellow radishes. What a great way to add color to a salad! I find that peppers are really easy to grow here as long as they get plenty

Garden Party radish mix



of sun. Renee’s is offering a paprika pepper called Hungarian Magyar, imported directly from Hungary. The plant produces large peppers that can be dried and ground into sweet paprika.

I have had great success growing cherry tomatoes in my rooftop garden. This year, I plan to grow one known as ‘Chocolate Sprinkles’ since it has a robust flavor and is resistant to cracking. The plant produces many oval, bronzy-red, delicious cherry tomatoes.

‘Perpetua’ blueberry

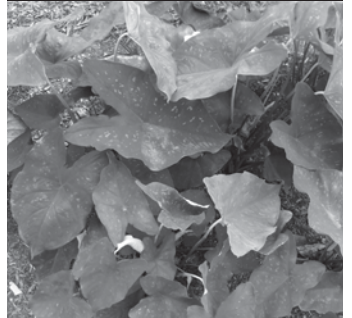


I will keep an eye out for a new blueberry called ‘Perpetua’ (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). It is distinct because it produces a double crop of blueberries, setting fruit in summer and again in the autumn. Blueberries should

be included as part of the aesthetic garden because they are gorgeous plants while also producing luscious fruit. Watch out for birds as they love blueberries. You can solve this problem by putting netting over the plants.

Color adds excitement to a garden. This year there are some vivid annuals and tender perennials that will thrive here. A favorite begonia of mine is called ‘Bonfire’ (*Begonia bolivien-sis*) due to its lovely weeping habit and twirling brilliant reddish-orange flowers. It is a perfect plant for a container. Other selections of Bonfire begonias are available this year with flower color variations including white, red, and yellow. For color in your shade garden, I am partial to the foliage of red caladiums. A new cultivar that has done well at

‘Burning Heart’ caladium



‘Florida Fantasy’ caladium



various test sites is known as 'Burning Heart.' The heart-shaped leaves, velvety red with bronze and pink spots, will bring interest to a shady spot. Another possibility for brightening up a dark shady area is a new caladium developed by the University of Florida called 'Florida Fantasy.' The ghost-like white leaves have beautiful red veins with a touch of green.

Rattail radish



And if you want a vegetable as a talking point, try growing the rattail radish (*Raphanus caudatus*), available from Richters Herbs (www.richters.com). Instead of eating the root, which is normally what you eat, you will eat the seed pod. The crunchy texture and great flavor are notable as is the fact that they look like rattails!

Gardening is more fun when we experiment with new and different plants. There is exciting anticipation in seeing what the plants will do, how they will produce, and what surprises we might discover. When you meet with success or failure with a particular plant, I recommend you keep a garden diary where you track such information for the future. —HOLLY SHIMIZU



GLEN ECHO ON THE MARCH

Glen Echo was well represented at the January 21 protest.



Rachel Zeidenberg



Raya Bodnarchuk



Claire Kelly



Mickie Simpson



Angela Hirsch (avert your eyes, kids)



Dan, Declan, and Corinna Spealman



Colby, Pete, and Lara T. Epanchin



Nora and Nicole Fraser attended the Geneva march!

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In the middle of winter, you probably are thinking about your energy usage and whether your house structure and systems are as efficient as they could be. There are a lot of ways to save energy, some of them simple and not a huge investment—like changing light bulbs—and some of them very complicated and expensive, such as installing a geothermal system for heating and cooling. Should you replace your windows? Change your boiler to a high-efficiency model? Often times, adding more insulation gives you the best return on investment, even though it's kind of a boring, non-sexy improvement.

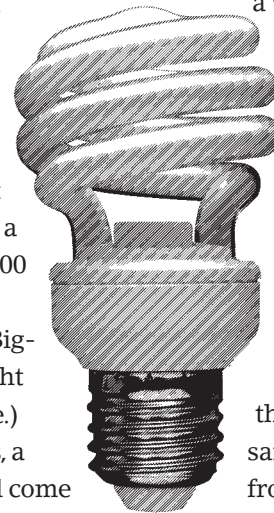
So how do you determine your options? You can call in a contractor, but they are, of course, trying to get your business, and may not be as knowledgeable as they profess to be, so that may not be the best place to start just to get objective advice. Have you thought about getting a home energy audit? This process can provide you

EASY BEING GREEN

with some real information and even actual test results that will help you see which maintenance or improvement projects will be worth the cost in energy savings and possibly comfort. One easy step is to arrange for a free **Quick Home Energy Checkup** available to all Pepco customers. They subsidize firms to do this work, and all you have to do is make an appointment and be home. One nice benefit is that they bring a lot of free light bulbs (LED and CFL) with them to change out your old ones—so right there you've saved some money! They can install water saving aerators and shower heads at no charge, and bring a free power strip and insulate the pipes on your water heater. They will also walk around the house with you, and point out areas where improvements can be made, such as insulation or caulking. Now, for no cost, this is not an extensive

process and you don't get a written report or anything, but it's worth it for the free stuff and a few ideas!

For a slight investment, you can arrange a more extensive Home Energy Assessment, which is worth a few hundred dollars, but in Maryland is subsidized by Pepco so the consumer cost is just \$100 for a house up to 3000 sq. ft. with one zone HVAC. (Bigger places might be a little more.) In this process, a technician will come with equipment to do a blower door test to check for air flow and leakage, and take thermographic readings with an infrared camera. This takes about three to four hours, and at the end, they will provide a written report with prioritized recommendations and cost estimates. Then, if you decide to make improvements based on the report, you are eligible for rebates up to a total of \$4,300 against the cost of items like weatherization and duct sealing or the purchase of new energy efficient appliances or HVAC equipment. You can find out more about all the Pepco-sponsored programs at www.pepco.com/



my-home/save-money-and- conserve-energy.

On the Pepco website, you'll find a list of approved contractors in Maryland certified through the Building Performance Institute who are authorized to do the free and reduced cost tests. I can suggest a company called "ecobeco" as a very good provider choice. Here is a link to a blog post on their website about the home energy audit process: www.ecobeco.com/blog/why-should-i-get-a-home-energy-audit. I like that, in addition to energy efficiency, they also assess the safety of the emissions from your combustion equipment and address your indoor air quality based on air exchange rates. As a green realtor, I have shared a table with ecobeco at the My Green Montgomery event, and also invited one of the founders, Reuven Walder, to be on an XM Radio program with me about green home issues, so I know they are very knowledgeable and reputable. They also can perform the suggested work themselves if you choose, so they are a one-stop option for the testing and the following actions. I wish you improved efficiency, lower costs, and a more comfortable home in the future! —MICKIE SIMPSON

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The 7-Eleven

A Montgomery County Board's December decision to re-issue the license to sell beer and wine at the **7-Eleven at Glen Echo Center** has resulted in a second legal challenge by a competing store owner. Peter Frank, owner of Talbert's Ice & Beverage Service on River Road, is appealing in Montgomery County Circuit Court the board's decision to reinstate franchise owner Girma Hailu's license to sell beer and wine. There is no schedule set for the latest court case, according to online court documents.

.....

In October, the **Glen Echo Park Aquarium** was awarded the Mid-Atlantic

HAVE YOU HEARD?



The Glen Echo Park Aquarium

Marine Education Association (MAMEA) Education Project Grant for \$1,000. They plan to use the funds for a distance learning program. Using video conferencing, they can bring the aquarium to schools throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

.....

It's that time again! **Bannockburn Nursery School** will be holding its **rummage sale** Saturday,

March 11, from 9 AM to 12 PM at the Bannockburn Clubhouse. Come to shop or come to donate household items, clothing, toys, etc. on the Thursday or Friday prior. Large items can be picked up. Email jocelyn_gross@ymail.com for more information.



The BNS rummage sale

Holidays often lead to confusion about when **trash or recycling pick up** is happening. Here's a pro tip: Elivra Rodriguez is the customer service person to call at Waste Management if you have a question or if an expected pick up never materializes. She's responsive and familiar with our Town's account and can be reached at erodrigu@wm.com or 301-556-2426.



The FAA has dropped its plan to change the **flight path from DCA**. The change in flight paths for departing planes from DCA would have meant increased airplane noise over Bethesda communities that had seen more noise from previous airplane route changes. The FAA's decision follows a review of public input, including comments gathered at community meetings and inquiries from political leaders.

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A committee to oversee a competition to select an **official Town flag** has been assembled. Members are residents **Aaron Hirsch, Renny Springuel,** and **Pete Epanchin.** The group has drafted rules for submissions as well as a process for voting. They are awaiting feedback from Town Council to proceed, but once approved, the details will be distributed to Town residents in mailboxes as well as on the listserv.

The preliminary plan to redevelop the **Westwood shopping center** and surrounding area (including two gas stations and Bowlmor Lanes on Westbard Avenue) is headed to the Montgomery County Planning Board on February 23. The construction is anticipated to be completed in phases over ten years and will begin with the realignment of Westbard Avenue to directly connect it with River Road.

Real Estate Report

6105 Bryn Mawr Avenue recently sold for \$675,000. And the McGunnigle home at 15 Vassar Circle, listed at \$1,129,000, is now under contract after four months on the market.



They say it's your Birthday!

Feb. 4, **Siena Belinkie**, 3
 Feb. 15, **Rafe Parsons Amdur**, 5
 Feb. 24, **Audrey Bohi**, 12

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GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events



FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, **February 1, 8, 15, 22** 8-10:30 PM, free to Town residents

Local Events

February 22 7-9 PM, Family Bingo Night at the Clara Barton Center, \$5 cards and food for sale to benefit the community center



Glen Echo Park Activities

February 12 3-5 PM, The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents a Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom's back room, \$5

The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
Goldilocks! through February 19

Tiny Tots select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10AM

Adventure Theater MTC

www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270

Ella Enchanted February 3-March 19

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, AT 8 PM

LADIES NIGHT

34 WELLESLEY CIRCLE • SUSAN THON HOSTING • 301-229-6947

MacArthur Plaza

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THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Adult Forum	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	9:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist & Sunday School	10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays: Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.; Eucharist at Noon

■ MUSIC AT REDEEMER

Sunday, February 19, at 5:00 p.m.
The American Boychoir in Concert
Freewill Offering. Reception to follow.

Sunday Services are available on our website!
<http://www.redeemerbethesda.org/worship/service-recordings/>

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LEGGIN
ARCHITECTS

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