



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The Town Council convened on July 10 in a markedly tidy Town Hall meeting room with a brand new grey carpet. The Mayor, the Town Clerk, and three Council Members attended; absent was Council Member Stiglitz. Ten residents also attended.

Town Business

In response to neighborhood concern about the use of Round-Up to kill weeds, Mayor Polak gave resident Holly Shimizu the task of working with Chapel Valley Landscaping to come up with an alternative. Most landscape contractors use Round-Up because it is easy and effective, but she has convinced them to experiment with Avenger, a weed killer made from citrus and used by organic farmers. The first treatment was in July with two more scheduled this year. Holly and Chapel Valley will

be monitoring its effect, but input from neighbors is also appreciated. Holly hopes that a successful trial in Glen Echo will inspire others in the area to make the switch (ahem, Glen Echo Park).

Council Member Spealman ran down his list of Responsibilities and Initiatives (first published in the June issue). This is a list of actual positions that need Town

representation (like Fire Board) and more general issue areas that need a point person or committee to make educated recommendations to the Council

(like street and sidewalk improvement). There were some updates including naming residents who have volunteered and identifying where there are still needs. For information about opportunities to volunteer for your Town, see page 2.

The Council invited resident Thom Amdur to discuss Empower Maryland, a utility-funded program that provides communities with incentives to invest in energy improvements. Thom said that it made sense to start with retrofits in Town streetlights and Town Hall. The program, which will be Pepco-funded, is still in its planning stages, but the Town can submit a letter to help shape it. Thom agreed to write the letter and have a draft for the Council before the September 1 deadline.

Vassar Circle

Responding to resident interest in an opportunity to buy or trade for the land in the

middle of Vassar Circle, the Mayor has put together an Advisory Committee on Land Acquisition. It is composed of six Town residents and two non-residents who work in fields that would be useful to the discussion, plus the Mayor and the Town lawyer. The group will be meeting regularly over the next month or two, primarily in closed meetings, though any opportunities for wider resident input will be communicated.

Oxford Road

The Mayor continues to look at wallet-friendly options for improving the traffic issues on Oxford Road. Resident Renny Springuel commented that since the main issue seems to be the serial running of the stop sign at University Avenue, perhaps we should simply remove it. Resident Leah Hertz went a step further and suggested that Oxford Road be made one-way IN to Town, and Princeton



THE ECHO

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* are on file at Little Falls Library. Also provided online at www.glenecho.org. Total circulation: 190.

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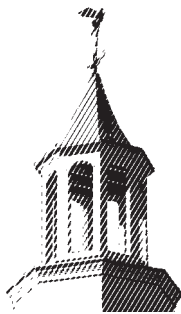
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Next Deadline: August 20, 2017

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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Next Town Council Meeting: September 11, 2017, 8 PM

Avenue one-way OUT. The conversation continues ...

Town Expenses

From June 1 to July 22, the Town paid \$4,680 to Bolt Legal, \$4,600 to Lee's Tree Service, and \$1,500 to Hatcher's Floors. —EMILY PARSONS

GLEN ECHO NEEDS YOU!

Based on citizen input, the Council has identified a list of initiatives that can help make our Town an even better place to live. We're seeking volunteers to explore options and make recommendations to the Council for specific actions. If you have any interest, please contact Council Member Dan Speakman (councilmember@spealman.net) for the complete version of this list and a detailed description of each



volunteer opportunity. Here are some of the highlights:

Constituent Outreach: Are there additional ways for the Council to share information with citizens, and in turn encourage input? Website upgrades, social media, face-to-face, etc.



Utilities: How can we make our utilities cheaper, safer, and better?

Environmental Management: What can we do together to improve Town and household practices and be better stewards of the environment?

Town Hall: Are there opportunities to upgrade facilities and better maintain the Town Hall to protect this important landmark and make sure that it can be used by and for residents?

Fire Board: An important part of our Town since 1933, but we need someone to participate in monthly meetings and work with the board to improve safety in Town.

Quiet Skies: Those pesky

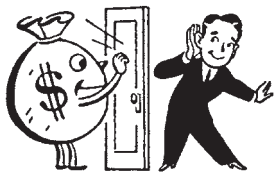


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planes are causing more and more noise in Glen Echo, and Montgomery County is pushing back. Do you want to join the cause and represent the Town? **Town Records:** We've got a wonderful history, but our records are very disorganized. Especially if you have experience as a librarian, historian, or archivist, we could really use your help.



External Funding and Coordination: Are you an experienced fundraiser who knows about oppor-

tunities from government bodies or foundations that we're missing out on?

Social Events: Parades, parties, movie nights, concerts, educational programs. Let's have even more great opportunities to get together as a town and have fun.

Livable Town Improvements: Do you have creative ideas for new services or utilizing town assets in fun new ways? Community gardens, recreational opportunities, and more will be explored.

Streets and Sidewalks: How can we best maintain and improve our streets, sidewalks, parking spaces, and crosswalks for the safety and use of our residents?

NEW TO TOWN

Surely, one of the shortest and fastest moves to Glen Echo belongs to Jessica Valner and David Flohr, the new residents of 15 Vassar Circle. They were living in their home on nearby Kenhowe Drive when their last child left for college in September 2016. Their newly empty nest did not make them itch for downsizing. However, they never quite felt at home in that neighborhood. On a cold day, Jess took Luna, their 11-year-old English Lab, for a walk to Glen Echo Park where they met a Town resident who described our Town as friendly and welcoming. When David checked online that night, he found a listing for the McGunnigle house. Wasting no time, they met listing agent, Patty Sieber, for a 9 PM tour that same night. Delighted with the house's airiness and light, they made an offer within 15 minutes – even though Jess and David were de-

parting the next morning for Mexico. Declaring the house "perfect," they moved to Vassar even before their Kenhowe house was placed on the market.



Jess was born and raised in Mexico City. In the early 1900's, both her sets of Jewish grandparents had fled Eastern Europe during the pogroms, finding homes in Mexico and the U.S. Her father became a physician and was among the Mexican pioneers of both psychoanalysis and urban development. He became the first Jewish undersecretary in the Mexican government. Her mother was an artist and teacher. Speaking in both English and Span-
(continued next page)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I want to thank all of those who submitted letters of appreciation in The Echo [the July issue]. I will cherish these along with memories of my tenure as Mayor and Council Member, which are among the happiest and proudest of my life. I leave office knowing that the Town is in the capable hands with the new Mayor and Council. I look forward to seeing you all in the future and continuing to contribute in any way that I can. —DEBBIE BEERS

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ARCHITECTS

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(continued from page 3)
ish with her mother, Jess and her brother attended bilingual schools, which may explain Jess's complete absence of an accent when conversing in English. She married and moved to Boston where she finished her BA at Brandeis. Later she moved to Washington and completed a PhD in clinical psychology at Catholic University. Jess has two sons, Ilan (21) and Julian (19); who have graduated Georgetown Day School and are studying at Washington

University and Northwestern, respectively, although they are in Glen Echo for the Summer.

David, born in West Berlin, lived in France, Long Island, NY, and Potomac, MD, because his father was a senior career officer with the CIA. His BA and MA were earned at George Washington University and George Mason, and his counseling psychology PhD is from the University of Maryland. David's professional mission for over 30 years has centered around

youth and families and particularly around the self-development of parents. David has two biological sons, Dennis (31) and Joey (28), and two stepsons, Alex (30) and Daniel (deceased). The sons' early career years include the Marines, professional basketball, opening an assisted living facility, social work, physical training, and stand-up comedy.

Jess and David met during Jess's internship, when he was her clinical supervisor. They married many years and a couple of kids later.

Jess had a private practice in Maryland for 15 years, and they now share an office in Falls Church where they each have a private practice.

David and Jess are also artists. David "fell into clay" in 1976, upon wandering into an arts and crafts room, finding expression for his creativity. He has practiced and taught at the Art League studio since then and is a juried member of the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. They also have a "creative playground" attached to their cabin in Berkeley Springs and host yearly art shows. Jess calls herself a "creative wanderer" in mixed media—including digital photography and writing. She recently curated a museum exhibit in Puebla, Mexico, from her father's collection of Mexican folk art. In addition to museums in San Francisco and Puebla, the Vassar house will be "hosting" some of the pieces from this collection.

Glen Echo has exceeded their highest expectations: "It's a rare neighborhood with a Vermont feel to it," says Jess. Being an extrovert, she knocked on neighbors' doors even before moving in. They were also visited by neighbors bearing cookies, flowers, and greetings. They would like to make their contributions to the Town's creative side. Having had a hip replaced since moving to Glen Echo, maybe David's contribution can be in the dance realm! —GLORIA LEVIN

OUT AND ABOUT

As summer nights near an end, make the most of the sunshine and great outdoors with some of these upcoming events in the area.

There are a couple of stand out events at **Wolf Trap** this month. On August 4, they are curbing the shame for those of us who missed *La La Land* in theatres by bringing it in concert with music by the national symphony orchestra. And for those of you who missed the recent Politics and Prose book reading and signing of David Sedaris' new book, catch him for his second local appearance at Wolf Trap on August 19. Just don't expect singing.

The Comcast Xfinity **Outdoor Film Festival** runs August 24-26 at the Strathmore. The lineup includes

Moana, Rogue One, and The Lego Batman Movie. While the event is free to movie goers, its corporate sponsors donate funds in support of the NIH Children's Charities.

In our own backyard, there always seems to be at least one night of the week when Glen Echo Park is featuring **folk dancing**. But join in for this unique

spin with a Nordic twist on August 25 at 7 PM in the Bumper Car Pavilion, in collaboration with the Swedish embassy.

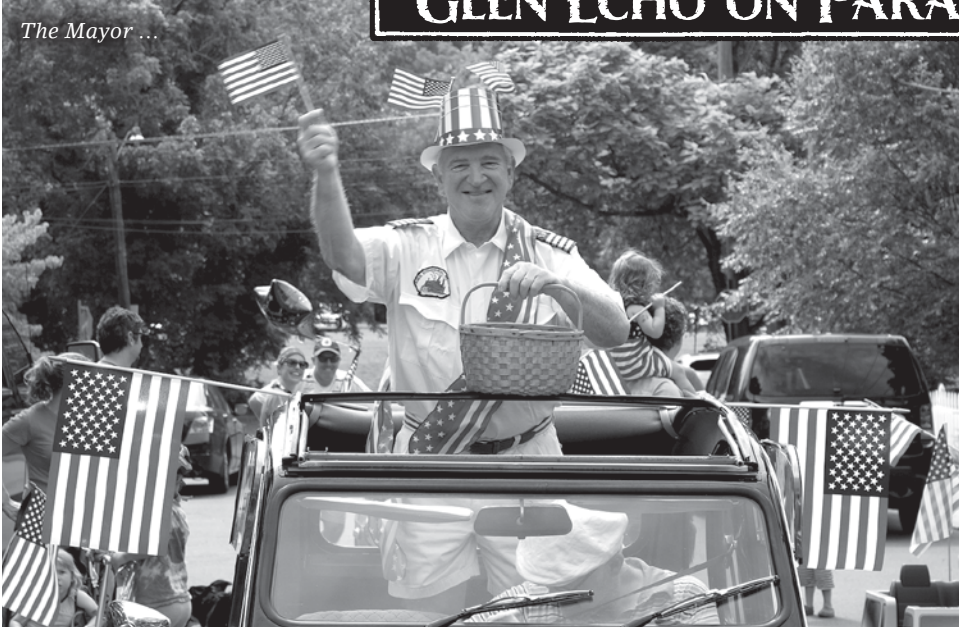
If you're too anxious to wait for Halloween to play dress-up, head over to Annapolis on August 26 and 27 for the inaugural weekend of the **Maryland Renaissance Festival**. This period event, while fun, is not quite historically accurate—filled with everything from elephant rides to knife dancers, as well as the standard fare of over-sized turkey legs and lords-and-ladies garb.

But, above all, make sure to take time to simply relax this month before the start of yet another school year or the drag of those morning meetings. —MONA KISHORE



GLEN ECHO ON PARADE

The Mayor ...



... the music ...



... the water balloon fight!

Turnout was *huge* for the first Glen Echo Fourth of July parade (in recent memory): antique cars, Bill Corbett on bagpipes, and Mayor Polak tossing candy to children in a sea of red, white, and blue. It culminated at the pocket parks with popsicles and an awesome water balloon fight. Thanks are due to Angela Hirsch for organizing and to everyone who helped it succeed.



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SUMMER BLOCK PARTY



This year's summer picnic was a little snazzier, because it doubled as a tribute celebration for former Mayor Debbie Beers. Harvard Avenue was blocked to traffic and set with tables, enabling attendees to sit and enjoy the great BBQ from King Street Blues and music from the Sunshine Skiffle Band. While neighbors caught up and Debbie was presented with a plaque thanking her for her service, the children enjoyed an inflatable slip and slide and an inflatable obstacle course. Thanks to Stacey Malmgren for another great Town party.



Three cheers for Debbie Beers!



Sunshine Skiffle Band





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I recently spent a week on a tour sponsored by the American Horticultural Society of several of the finest gardens in Connecticut. I was impressed by the quality of the gardens and nurseries we visited. The Hollister House garden, my favorite, is situated on a terraced site in the rolling hills of Litchfield County in northwestern Connecticut. The garden was designed to complement the 18th Century house, although it is not a re-creation of an authentic 18th Century garden. It has been described as "an American interpretation of such classic English gardens as Sissinghurst, Great Dixter and Hidcote, formal in its structure but informal and rather wild in its style of planting."

George Schoellkopf, a self-described colorist, has been creating the Garden since 1979 and has produced a stunning blend of formal lines and angles together with loose, exuberant

HOLLY IN THE IVY



Falling rain dapples the pool in Hollister House's Walled Garden

plantings. As I walked along the garden pathways entering each garden "room," I

encountered one astonishing surprise after another. Schoellkopf effectively

maximized views of the magnificent surrounding landscape while his "rooms" include water features and richly textured, colorful planting designs. The designer's fine eye and artistic use of plant combinations results in an energizing viewing experience!

The take-aways I gathered from this garden are:

- Plant in layers.
- Use sprawling plants along the edges to soften the garden.
- Dark green hedges provide an excellent background for colorful foliage.
- Relationships between the house, outer buildings, and structures, are extremely important to consider in the designing of the garden.
- Continuity of materials matters: This includes fences, materials for paving and edging, containers, and other features.

■ Provide lots of carefully placed seating to enjoy the garden and the views.

—HOLLY SHIMIZU

TIPS ON GETTING RID OF POISON IVY

The rash that most of us get from poison ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*) is caused by one of its volatile oils called urushiol. This oil is found in all parts of the plant: fruit, roots, leaves, stems, and flowers. Urushiol is a sticky, clear liquid compound that is in the plant's sap. The best way to get rid of

poison ivy from your garden is to physically remove it by pulling it out by the roots—but be careful. As one who has ended up in the hospital after exposure to poison ivy, I speak from experience.

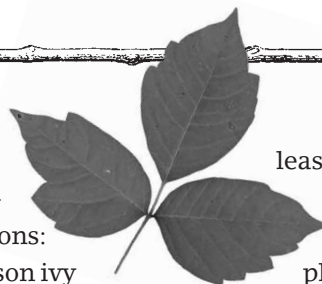
Urushiol is quickly absorbed into the skin and can remain on clothing and materials for several weeks

after exposure. Follow these important suggestions:

- Remove poison ivy on a cool cloudy day when the oils are less volatile.
- Wear protective gloves.
- Carefully cover all parts of your body that could come into contact with the plant.
- Dig the roots down at

least 6 inches to completely remove the plant.

- Wash all clothes in hot water afterwards.
- If you think you may have come into contact with poison ivy, apply rubbing alcohol to the infected area or rinse it with water.



While the August 14 Town Council Meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of quorum, there will be an **open meeting** to discuss the **recodification of the Town ordinances** on August 8 from 7 to 9 PM. The following articles may be discussed: Article 3 (Building Code); Article 11 (Licenses and Occupations); and Article 17 (Streets and Sidewalks). Residents welcome, so come! Get your Council fix sated on August 8! We hear Council Member Costello brings cookies.

.....

The **Little Falls Library** finally opened its doors on July 29 after a refresh that got delayed by a burst water pipe last December. Pretty much



The updated children's floor at Little Falls Library

HAVE YOU HEARD?

everything is new—paint, carpeting, shelving, bathrooms, furniture, as well as heating and air conditioning and electrical systems thanks to that burst pipe. There is also a new teen area and technological updates like enhanced Wi-Fi and self-checkout stations. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be August 26 at 10 AM with County Executive Ike Leggett. The Bethesda Library branch will close August 6 for its refresh, which had been delayed until Little Falls could reopen.

.....

The **Glen Echo Park Aquarium** will begin offering nature workshops

on Thursdays in the fall for children ages 1–3 accompanied by a caregiver. It's called Discover Nature! and will cover sharks, crabs, trees, wind, waves, and bugs

and uses mimicking animal sounds, sign language, vocabulary, and art to explore nature throughout the Park and Aquarium. Workshops begin September 28. To find out more, email info@glenechopark.org.

.....

Adventure Theater has announced the shows for its 66th season. First up is *How I Became a Pirate* based on the book by Melinda Long, illustrated by David Shannon; then, for the holidays, the theater will



bring back *Frosty the Snowman*; followed by *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*; and, in partnership with seven other children's theaters, *Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad,*

Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt; and finally, the world premier of *Tinker Bell*. Artistic Director, **Michael Bobbitt**, says of the season, "I'm thrilled that this national collaboration will bring so much joy to young audiences across the country in these uncertain times. This is truly the opportunity for families to come together, create memories, and appreciate the amazing art that DC Theatre has to offer."

.....

Bannockburn Nursery School, helmed by Wellesley Circle resident **Angie Zeidenberg**, is still accepting applications for its 4- to 5-year-olds class. BNS is a play-based cooperative preschool located in the Bannockburn Community Club House just across MacArthur Boulevard. And as one completely biased BNS parent attests, you and your little ones would be lucky to be part of this amazing community of teachers and families. Call Angie to schedule a tour, 301-320-4252.

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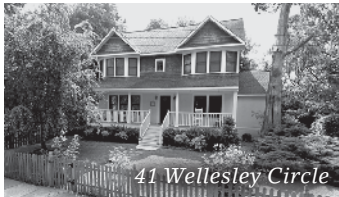
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Aug. 3, **Colin Koonce**, 13
 Aug. 25, **Sandra Gillberg**, 1

Real Estate Report

Two recent sales have closed, so look for some new neighbors moving in. 41 Wellesley Circle sold for



\$975,000, and 5806 Oxford Road sold for \$899,000. 30 Wellesley Circle, listed at \$775,000, went quickly under contract, and 6005 Princeton Avenue is now on the market for \$999,000. 6110 Oberlin Avenue, a commercial property, remains listed at \$1,999,995. 2 Vassar Circle, previously listed as a commercial property and also imagined as home to four houses, is now being listed as a single-home residential property priced at \$2,750,000. The listing materials include this pitch:

“TOTALLY UNIQUE! 1935 Firehouse/Church conversion opportunity offered by award-winning developer. 6,200+ square feet on almost 2/3 acre circular site in charming Glen Echo. Soaring 25’ vaulted ceiling with steel trusses, hose drying tower with bell, massive open spaces allow for any desired configuration. Renderings and plans are examples; final pricing TBD. Imagine the possibilities!”



Meanwhile, the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Land Acquisition continues to hold regular closed meetings to discuss what the Town could do with that piece of land.



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GOINGS ON



Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance,
 Wednesdays, **August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**
 8–10:30 PM, free to Town residents

August 6 1 PM, C&O Canal Association Board meeting; open to the public

August 8 7 PM, Town Ordinance Meeting; residents welcome

Glen Echo Park Events

Dentzel Carousel \$1.25 a ride, through August:
 Weds.–Fri. 10 AM–2 PM; Sat.–Sun. 12–6 PM (Carousel also open during concerts and other events.)

August 4 6–8 PM, Art Walk in the Park, First Friday of each month through September, open studios and artist demonstrations throughout the Park

Summer Concert Series

Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the bumper car pavilion, free

August 3 Bollywood Brass DC

August 10 Elikeh

August 17 Origem

August 24 U.S. Marine Band–Dixieland Ensemble

August 31 Tall in the Saddle Band



The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380

Circus! through August 27

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

Adventure Theater MTC

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

Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook through August 14

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, AT 8 PM

Ladies Night

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

■ **SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE (SUMMER)**

Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
Nursery Care 9:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays: Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.; Eucharist at Noon

■ **MUSIC AT REDEEMER**

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■ **SEPTEMBER 10TH**

Homecoming Sunday—welcome back from summer!

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