



The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



February 2011

JANUARY TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

By Brent Agnew

Polly Angelakis of the Park Service began the meeting with a report on the park. Trolley restoration continues and is proceeding according to plan. Kimberly Robinson is the new Curator for both Clara Barton and Glen Echo park sites. Aaron LaRocca is the new permanent Supervisory Park Ranger, and Sharna Plater is the Acting Facilities Manager.

This month's Town Council meeting was dominated by a recent incident involving a postal patron and a town resident. Earlier this month Raya Bodnarchuk's fence was struck again, this time by an unattended vehicle left to roll in the street by a postal customer. The damage to Raya's property, a broken fence rail, cracked pickets and an uprooted post, was just the latest in a long list of damages done by postal patrons and workers

to her property. At this meeting she described past cases and urged the Council to take action to prevent future incidents. Although the postal service is accommodating when the incidents occur, the burden is on the resident to apply for compensation by providing three estimates and contracting for the work to be done.

The Council discussed other instances of problems with postal traffic: double parking in the street, U-turns in the middle of the street, and trucks blocking traffic. Some solutions proposed were to increase signage to help discourage bad customer behavior, to make the street one way, or to commission an off-duty police officer to monitor traffic flow on Harvard. Requiring the post office to move the post box to the back of the town hall was also discussed; however, the town can only specify where the mailbox cannot be located for reasons of safety. Additional protection for Raya's

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THE ECHO

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AROUND TOWN

Patrick and Ali Hooper are delighted to announce the arrival of their second daughter, Cristina Maria. She was born on November 19, 2010 at Sibley Hospital, weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. Her older sister Gabriela, now 3 years old, is very happy to have a little sister.

All of Glen Echo welcomes the newest Glen Echo resident.



*"O worship the LORD in the
 beauty of holiness..."*

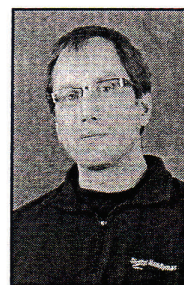
-Psalm 96:9

■ SUNDAY MORNING

The Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Adult Education Forum	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Church School	10:30 a.m.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

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REMEMBERING BILLY

William E. Briggs (Feb. 19, 1927 - Dec. 27, 2010)

By Susan Grigsby

Billy Briggs, more formerly known as William E. Briggs, Jr., died on December 27, 2010. Billy lived in Glen Echo his entire life, trained as a plumber, became a "Union Plumber", and had been retired for over 20 years. Billy is survived by his wife Betty, his son "Buddy" William E. Briggs III, and 3 grandchildren. Billy requested that there be no service.

The above are the statistics. Beyond those statistics were many special summer evenings when Billy and Betty would sit on their front porch and tell stories of growing up in Glen Echo. Billy was born in a house on the bottom of Yale Avenue, and lived his entire life here in Glen Echo. He and his friends would swim across the Potomac to Virginia and swing from the thick vines that grew along the river. In 1948 Billy married Betty Balenger, another Glen Echo native. They were married in the living room of their current Bryn Mawr Avenue house, and lived there for 63 years. The house is one of the three that Betty's father, Charles Balenger, built for his daughters on Bryn Mawr Avenue.

One neighbor remembered how helpful Billy was when they moved to Glen Echo in 1958. Billy's welcome was practical. He explained the current method of trash collection, a helpful, if perhaps unorthodox, introduction. Billy always seemed glad to share his plumbing knowledge. He tended to teach, rather than do the job for you. He would explain a mistake until the job was correct. One grateful neighbor reported "Billy taught me everything I know about plumbing." The neighbor has used these skills in his business. Billy loved children, and was known to carry one young boy upstairs each night for several months when the child's mother was not able to lift. Neighbors remember that Billy loved to share stories about members of his Family Tree which hangs in the corner of their Bryn Mawr living room. Another neighbor remembers Billy as "a kind

and gentle giant". Billy reported that he was 6'3", but with his broad shoulders and barrel chest, he looked much larger. His size would often frighten small children.

From 1960 to 1968, Billy served on the Town Council. From the Town Council Minutes of August 1968, Mayor Frank Corder summarized Billy's civic contributions: "Councilman Briggs managed all of the Town's Property, managed Glen Echo's trash removal program, (including responsibility for identification and disposal of junk cars), supervised the Town's maintenance worker, Mr. Grover Ferguson, and acted as Vice-President of the Council". Mayor Corder observed that during Mr. Brigg's tenure many visitors to Glen Echo had been impressed by the neat, attractive appearance of the Town, and credited Councilman Briggs with having upgraded the Town's physical environment. Councilman Briggs responded that much of the credit for the Town's attractive appearance belonged to Mr. Grover Ferguson.

It might be mentioned that Billy personally met with Mr. Ferguson, sometimes several times a week, for these 8 years to give instructions or to provide follow-up. The modesty of Billy's statement was typical. His insight into personal relations, his low-key manner, and his particularly kind personal interactions came from a generosity of spirit and willingness to share his skills and his time.

So when these warm summer evenings roll around, or the light-up figures go up on the porch at Christmas, there will not be a season when we, his neighbors, will not think about Billy, his wonderful legacy, and his gift to all of us. Beyond the statistics was a rich life, and we have basked in the wealth that he shared with us.

Contributing Neighbors: Atallah, Costello, Grigsby, Hull, Long, Masulla, Shaut, Shimizu, Steele, Stevenson. If anyone would like to add to this short article, a memoirs scrapbook is being made (to be given to Betty). Please give written comments to Susan or Dia.

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

JANUARY TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

property was also proposed. The council resolved to contact the Maryland Municipal League for guidance on hiring a planning expert to consult on this issue. The council will also discuss new signage, and speak with the post office about a possible new location for the post box.

The next agenda item was a pamphlet sent to town residents with property adjacent to US Parkland. Dan Macy explained the pamphlet was a result of a dispute between a park and a landowner in Virginia who had committed violations against parkland. The strangely worded letter accompanying the packet was apparently originated by the land owner.

Nancy Long reported on Town Hall usage. There was one complaint of excessive noise from the Town Hall by a town resident. The rental agreement will be reviewed to make sure it is clear that Townhall renters must abide by Maryland noise restrictions. Dan Macy then described a survey by the WSSC near his property to examine an above ground sewer pipe that may require reinforcement. Dan pointed out that any work on town property must be approved by the council.

Cathy Pollak reported the research findings on the installation of a stop sign camera at the intersection of Oxford and University Avenues, which showed no known instance of stop sign camera usage in Maryland. The proposed installation may require state legislative approval. Currently only red-light and speed camera fines are returned to the local municipality (fines collected are returned for police service credit). Cathy Pollak did her own research and found reference to one stop sign camera in Baltimore city. The Council will re-search the matter further.

Dan Macy gave the latest update to the ongoing sale of the Baptist Church annex. Mr. Cannon from the church has indicated there are currently no outstanding offers on the property, leaving the town with no competing bids to acquire the property. The Council will hire an inspector or structural engineer to examine the building to determine its condition. A decision to budget for

the inspection was approved.

Finally, Nancy Long presented a eulogy to Billy Briggs, a Town Council member who served from 1968 to 1975. He was credited with making significant benefits to the town through his management of trash removal, encouragement of property improvements by residents, and disposal of junk cars, which were a significant nuisance at the time of his tenure.

HOME INVASION ROBBERY IN CABIN JOHN

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Major Crimes Division - Robbery Section, are investigating the armed home invasion robbery which occurred January 17th in the 7400 block of Arden Road in Cabin John.

At 1:00 p.m., 2nd District officers responded to a call of an armed robbery that had just occurred. The preliminary investigation revealed that two male subjects forcibly entered the home through a rear door and accosted the 68-year-old male home-owner at gun point. The suspects asked the victim for tape, which they then used to bind him.

Once the victim was restrained, the suspects stole property and exited the home through the same rear door. The victim was able to quickly free himself and summon the police; he was not injured.

The suspects are described as white males, in their late teens, with thin builds, approximately 5' 6" to 5' 7" tall. They were wearing all dark colored clothing including black knit caps, "baggy" jeans, and brown canvas or cotton gloves.

Detectives do not believe this is a random crime but are still asking for assistance. Anyone who may have information about this armed robbery, or the suspects responsible, is asked to call the Major Crimes Division - Robbery Section, at 240-773-5100.

Those who wish to remain anonymous may call Crime Solvers of Montgomery County, toll-free at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477) or 240-773-8477. Crime Solvers will pay a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information provided that leads to an arrest and/or indictment for this crime. Anonymous tips can also be provided by typing "MCPD" plus the tip on a cell phone or PDA and texting it to 274637 (CRIMES)

WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

By Carlotta Anderson

Another family that was seeking the small town neighborhood feeling has found its way to Glen Echo with the help of the Internet after months looking elsewhere. And to Bill and Kiera Vincent's surprise, when they found the house they wanted they found themselves living across the street from the Macys and a few blocks from the Helfs, both of whom Bill had met several years earlier.

In addition, they were delighted to meet most of their neighbors in mid-November on the day they moved in and met many more at the town holiday party.

Bill, an aerospace engineer at the U.S. Naval Research Lab (NRL) in D.C. who is involved in designing and building satellites moved to Glen Echo from Silver Spring. Kiera, a mechanical engineer who also builds satellites at NRL, had been living on Capitol Hill. Bill's children, Zoe, 10, Elsa, 8 and Alexander, 4, live at 6006 Bryn Mawr Ave. about half time and look forward to making friends in the neighborhood. They attend school in Rockville, although Zoe and Elsa have been diving for Merrimack Pool for several years. The family has two cats, Cassi and Orion.

Both Bill and Kiera were familiar with Glen Echo before they found the house here. The children had attended birthday parties at the Puppet Theatre and Bill had been swing dancing in the park ballroom. Kiera was attracted by the glass blowing and stained glass work. Bill likes to bike and snowboard and Kiera volunteers at the Washington Animal Rescue League, working with dogs and cats.

A heartfelt welcome to you all.

JIM ANDERSON

1929 – 2011

Jim passed away on January 30, 2011

at Carriage Hill of Bethesda.

Further details will be in the next issue of
The Echo.

GLEN ECHO PARK SERVICE NOTES

By Brent Agnew

Planning continues for the Montgomery County Shared Path Use. An exact timetable for public comment is yet to be determined. Four college interns will work on the Oral History Project this semester. The Park Service is working with the Harpers Ferry Design Center to plan, create, and install interpretive waysides throughout Glen Echo Park.

The Park Service is in the process of furnishing two rooms that were recently restored at Clara Barton NHS. The first floor American Red Cross Room and dining room are again open to the public.

A water main break occurred on the grounds at Clara Barton NHS on Dec. 23, 2010. It was reported at 8:30 a.m. and repaired by 7:00 p.m. On Dec. 24th a water valve was reported as leaking onto Oxford Road. After numerous calls and emails to WSSC from the Glen Echo Town Council, NPS, and the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, the break was repaired on Jan. 4th. Many thanks to everyone for their assistance in resolving this issue!

Interesting notes from THE GAZETTE

-- The budget of The Montgomery County Department of Recreation has had their budget cut by about \$5million dollars in fiscal year 2010. This has resulted in cuts in Senior programs all over the country, as well as a new fee of \$50.00 per year for Senior Silver Sneakers membership. The new fee applies to the **Clara Barton Center** in Cabin John. Those who have trouble paying the new senior fee may apply for financial assistance from the recreation department. For further information go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec.

-- Census ranks Chevy Chase among the most affluent places in Maryland. The article goes on to list communities with the highest median income in MD. Glen Echo was listed as the 8th highest, with a Median Household Income of \$173,333 (with a margin of error of +/- \$42,553).

REDEEMER CHURCH

Musical Events

Sunday, 13 February, at 5:00 p.m.

Carmina & Illuminare in Concert

Join Carmina and Illuminare, two of Washington's leading early music ensembles, for a varied program of sacred and secular choral works by Hildegard, Byrd, Brahms, and others. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

Sunday, 27 February, at 5:00 p.m.

Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert

Inscape's exploration of American chamber music continues with two contrasting works by Aaron Copland – the seldom-performed Three Latin American Sketches and the oft-performed ballet suite from Appalachian Spring. A premiere by composer Nathan Lincoln decusatis completes the program. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Expense, December 2010

Chapel Valley	\$1,198.40
Chesapeake Elevators Inspections	180.23
Wash. Gas Energy Services	482.53
Waste Management of MD	4,037.32
Holiday Breakfast and other expenses	1,918.19
Montgomery Country Off-Duty Police Officers	480.00



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Glen Echo Town Hall Events

February 2, 9, 16, and 23—English Country Dance, 8 p.m. – 11 p.m.

February 12 – Movie Night (movie to be announced)

February 13 -- **Family Dance** of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington --2 p.m. Introducing families and children to other cultures through music and dance.

February 25 -- 8 p.m. Æ performs at Glen Echo Town Hall

For the first time in the greater DC area, Æ (“ash”), the duet of Aurelia Lucy Shrenker and Eva Salina Primack, will perform songs from Appalachia, the Balkans, Caucasus, Georgia, and Corsica . Admission: \$15.00, but FREE for Glen Echo Town Residents.

Besides being performers, Aurelia and Eva are also experienced teachers. They will conduct a public vocal workshop on Saturday, Feb. 26, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church , 201 4th Street SE, Washington D.C. 20003. Admission: \$20.00. For more information and to register for the workshop, contact Anne Harrison, aeharrison@verizon.net. Learn more about Æ at <http://www.aesings.com>

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Glen Echo Park - UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Book and Paper Arts at Glen Echo Park

Explore the multiple dimensions of the page in this exhibition of book and paper arts by Glen Echo Park faculty. Text meets sculpture meets painting and drawing in these innovative works on and out of that most everyday material: paper.

February 5 to 27, 2011
Saturdays & Sundays, 12pm to 6pm
Popcorn Gallery

Opening Reception
Sunday, February 6, 3 to 5pm

Happy New Year!

Resolve to Take an Art, Dance or Music Class in 2011!

A class at the Park is the perfect start to the New Year! Winter sessions of many classes are starting over the next few weeks. Make good on a resolution -- or make a good resolution-- and expand your horizons with a class at Glen Echo Park. See below for some of the classes that are starting soon.

For a full list of all classes, course schedules, descriptions and availability, and to register online, visit www.glenechopark.org.

POTOMAC CONSERVANCY

Canal Stewards Cleanup Days

Help the Conservancy clean up and beautify the land and water surrounding Lock 8, and along miles 8 and 9 of the C&O Canal towpath. Upcoming cleanup dates include:

Sunday, Feb. 13, 10 am - 12 pm (participants meet at Lockhouse 8)

***Conservancy events will be cancelled in the case of inclement weather, specifically rain or snow. Please check www.potomac.org for the most up to date information*

The Next Town Council Meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be on Monday, February 14, at 8 pm.

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

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

Ladies Night

Wednesday,
February 16, 8 p.m.

At the home of
Emily Siegel and Dawn Fox

7326 University Ave.

r.s.v.p. 301-229-2403

CLASSIFIED ADS

Starting in **January**, beginner **BELLY DANCING CLASSES** will be offered on a drop-in basis (\$10/class). Every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 at The Clara Barton Community Center. Come join the fun! For more information contact dawnoftheflower@yahoo.com

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 15 Vassar Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

Blood Drive

Cabin John Citizens Association Red Cross

Sunday, **February 6**, from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Clara Barton Center

Please email ardenroad@me.com to schedule a time to donate blood (we schedule in 15 min. increments, such as 11am, 11:15am, etc.).

Wondering about your eligibility to donate blood, especially after travel to foreign countries? Call the Red Cross at 800 448-3543 to learn the Red Cross guidelines.



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Sunday Services11:00 am

Wednesday Activities7:00 pm

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