



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ MARCH 2018

## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

**M**ore than a dozen residents came out for the February 12 Town Council Meeting. That's what happens when the animal control ordinance appears on the agenda. All the Council Members, the Mayor, and the Town Clerk were there, as was the Town's lawyer Ron Bolt.

### Town Business

Alex Boyar, the owner of 31 Wellesley Circle, soon to be 6006 Cornell Avenue, was there to update the Council on the status of his property. He's applied for the building permit and hopes to begin construction of a new house in the spring. He and his wife Nancy Cohen and their 11-year-old daughter plan to live in the home once it's completed.

A long-outstanding agreement regarding the right-of-way at the top of Wellesley Circle has been resolved. Three houses there share part of the right-of-way as their backyards for a small fee to the Town. The details of the

agreement were not shared at the Council meeting.

### Town Hall Business

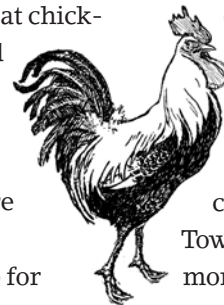
Termites have been discovered in the downstairs of Town Hall. Clerk Susan Ladani has been getting prices to eradicate the pests and prevent them in the future. She's also soliciting bids for cleaning the ducts in Town Hall, where black mold has been found in addition to years' worth of dust.

The mayor proposed renting a storage space to hold and maintain the many boxes of historical files currently held in the Town Hall. There was discussion about what exactly was in those boxes and questions about

whether tax records prior to 2011, for example, should be saved. The answer is no. The Council was not ready to start paying \$188 per month until what exactly all these boxes hold is discovered. The Council also deferred a decision about the purchase of a laptop for Ms. Ladani.

### The Animal Control Ordinance

This ordinance became a matter of public debate in 2016 when the Andersons on Harvard Avenue put up a coop with chickens and neighbors began complaining about rats. The Town ordinance states that chickens are not allowed and the Andersons were asked to get rid of the chickens. A predator got there first, and when the ordinance came up for discussion during the 2017 review of all ordinances by the Council, no significant change was made.



That would have been that, but the chickens are back, and Blair Anderson was at the meeting to defend them and to ask the Council to amend the ordinance to allow for chickens. What ensued was nearly an hour of debate about chickens, rats, birds, snakes—and the balance of predators and prey in general—property sizes in Town, what the County says, what other towns do, the importance of animals for children, the composting value of chicken droppings, what it means to be a good neighbor, and what former Mayor Debbie Beers may do if a luckless chicken strolls into her yard. In the end, Mayor Polak asked Mr. Anderson to find a sanctuary for the chickens outside of Town by the end of the month and promised that the Town Council would reassess the animal control ordinance soon with plenty more resident input.

# THE ECHO

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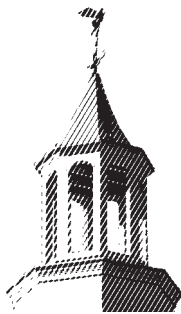
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

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Next Town Council Meeting: March 12, 2018, 8 PM

## Committee Progress

The streets and sidewalks group requested information about past maintenance and requested that stop signs along University Avenue as a means of slowing traffic through Town be discussed at a future Council meeting. Council Member Stiglitz mentioned that the County is committed to installing some sort of pedestrian-activated crosswalk device at MacArthur Boulevard and Princeton Avenue. The delay is in finding the device itself.

The environmental group has registered with Sustainable Maryland and is creating a Green Plan for Glen Echo. As part of that, resident Holly Shimizu had several questions for the Council:

1. Could the Town commit to having a green purchasing policy? The Council said it would look into its past purchases and compare to prices of recycled products.
2. Would the Town be willing to spend money for bigger projects like creating a rain garden? Answer: The budget is already tight; perhaps there

is funding to be found in external grants.

3. Would the Town be willing to commit to planting native plants over non-native in future, like if more plants are added to the right-of-way?
4. And can sustainability information, like links to native plants, be put up on the Town's website? Yes, the group can work with Ms. Ladani to get this info to the webmaster.

The liveable Town group reported on the findings of its recent survey of residents' enthusiasm for various activities. Block parties, kid's movie nights, and a Town volunteer day were the most popular options, while walking groups, public grills and picnic tables, and a bake off got the least interest. The group is going to brainstorm and make suggestions to the Council based on their results.

## Town Expenses

In January, the Town paid \$5,929 to Bolt Legal, \$3,481 to Lee's Tree Service, and \$2,567 to Chapel Valley Landscaping. —EMILY PARSONS



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The new residents at 47 Wellesley Circle certainly know how to curry favor with the Glen Echo media establishment. When I arrived to interview them on a Saturday morning, I was greeted with a platter of warm, airy, cinnamon-dusted pastries known as nun farts—or by their more elevated-sounding French name, *pets de soeur*. I like these newcomers!

The Bermudez family—Cristina, her son Arturo (25) and daughters Lucy (18) and Alejandra, or Alex (12), moved to the United States five years ago, as the Spanish economy faltered. Their path to Glen Echo took them through North Carolina, Oklahoma, California, and most recently, Wyoming. Arriving just before Christmas and surrounded by boxes, Cristina resolved that their nomadic days are behind them. They are determined for Alex, now a seventh grader at Pyle, to finish high school here.

The nun farts provided a delicious preview of Lucy's

## NEW TO TOWN

home bakery business, Levain Bakery. She has secured licensing from the state and from Montgomery



Alex, Lucy, Cristina, and Arturo

County to operate a cottage food business, and is in the process of finalizing requirements with the Town of Glen Echo. She plans to sell her breads and pastries at farmers' markets and will take special orders, offering hyper-local delivery. (Basically, this is the best news ever published in *The Echo*.)

Cristina works for Sodexo, which provides

food services for universities (among many other lines of business). She is the executive sous chef for Howard

University's dining system. Alex plays many sports, and is tapping into the cardiovascular advantage of having spent a few

years training at the 6,000-foot elevation and relentless wind of Cheyenne. Arturo is working for a landscaping company in Georgetown. The family's Malamute, Lilith, is a gentle giant who is already a fixture on the dog-people scene.

Cristina's aunt lives nearby and chose the house for them from the few available rentals—they moved in sight unseen. Their criteria were a good school district and space for Lucy's baking. A former storage area in the basement now serves as a

dedicated work space, kept extra cool for sake of the delicate pastry doughs.

The Bermudez family have met many neighbors and are enjoying the community feel of Glen Echo. They are happy to be living in a more cosmopolitan, diverse community after the relative homogeneity of Cheyenne. Look for more information on Levain Bakery in a future issue.

—ANGELA HIRSCH



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**A**s an election judge for Montgomery County, I've already received their newsletter about the 2018 elections. With County Executive Ike Leggett retiring after 12 years and many local council seats in play due to term limits, it's definitely not too early to think about the upcoming elections! Over 60 candidates are running for the various seats, which suggests a vigorous primary. A few things have come up at our local precinct at Bannockburn Elementary School in the past that I'd like to bring to your attention.

In order to vote in the primary elections, you must register to vote at least 21 days before the election. That means this year's deadline is June 5. It can be done online, by mail, at the Department of Motor Vehicles, or the Board of Elections but NOT on election day. You must be a U.S. citizen, be a Maryland resident, and be 18 years old by the general election (thus a 17-year old could possibly vote in the primary).

## DEMOCRACY NOW

Most importantly, if you intend to vote in the primary, you must be registered in that party to vote. If you are an Independent, you can't vote in the Democratic primary. You can change your affiliation before June 5 online or in person at the County Board of Elections in Gaithersburg. You can change it for every election. This topic comes up frequently in our area.

You can also apply online for an absentee ballot or vote early. If you apply for an absentee ballot, you cannot vote in person. The ballot must be postmarked by election day or dropped off at the Board of Elections. Many come in who applied for an absentee ballot, but never got around to using it. They must vote provisionally.

If you have moved, please update your voter registration before June 5. You are expected to vote in the precinct in which you are

registered. Otherwise, you will be given a provisional ballot, which may not have the correct local race.

When you vote, you do not need identification UNLESS you registered online, by mail, or for the first time or if you haven't voted in years.

The Election Board is always looking for new people

to be election judges. They are particularly interested in people who are multi-lingual or are registered Republican or Independent, since there has to be more than one party represented as judges. Please consider it. You will receive a small payment for services, although there is some serious training involved, plus working all day on election days.

—BONNIE WHYTE

### GET OUT AND VOTE!

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For further information, go to the County site [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org) and the state site <http://elections.maryland.gov>

Voter registration deadline is June 5 for registration or change of party affiliation or address. If you changed it at the DMV, it should be changed automatically (check the voter website to make sure).

**Primary Early Voting** (*multiple sites*)  
Nearest is the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
June 14–June 21, 10 AM–8 PM

**Primary Election Day**  
Tuesday, June 26th, 7 AM–8 PM

**General Early Voting Dates**  
October 25–November 1, 10 AM–8 PM

**General Election Day**  
Tuesday, November 6, 7 AM–8 PM



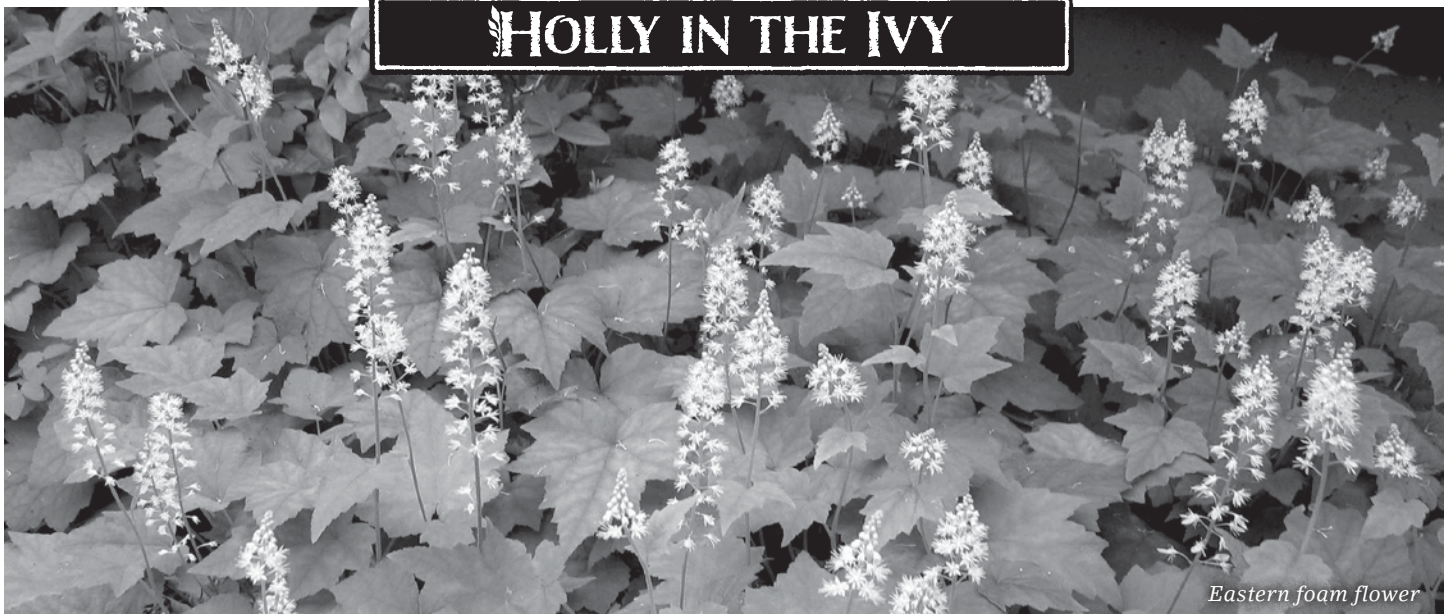
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## HOLLY IN THE IVY



*Eastern foam flower*

A number of Glen Echoans have asked me to recommend reliable native perennials for their gardens. Since there are so many excellent plant choices, I will break them into perennials, ferns, and grasses. This article will be devoted to my favorite native perennials. I will focus on ferns and grasses in the future.

Why am I so devoted to the choice of native plants? Native plants exemplify our distinctive geographical place. Thus, planting them in our gardens preserves the unique character of our region. Natives are adapted to our specific weather conditions: rainfall patterns, periods of extreme heat and cold, as well as seasonal fluctuations that naturally occur. Since natives have deeper root systems than introduced plants, they are easier to care for and naturally require less water and maintenance. Not

surprisingly, natives provide critical habitat for birds and many other species of wildlife. These plants have co-evolved over thousands of years resulting in the development of symbiotic relationships with the native wildlife. According to the National Wildlife Federation “a plant is considered native if it has occurred naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, or habitat without human introduction.”

Try replacing your English ivy with native ground covers, many of which will not have the invasive tendencies of the ivy. High on my list of favorite native ground covers is the eastern foam flower. It prefers to grow in shady, woodland environments or along a shady border. Delightful spikes of foamy white to pinkish flowers cover the plants in spring sitting atop lovely bright green foliage that remains throughout

the year. A large number of selections are being offered by nurseries that have more colorful leaves and flowers but the straight species remains a superb choice.



Wild stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*) is a rock-loving succulent that hugs the ground, sending up white star-shaped flowers in late spring on branches that are 4–8 inches high. It forms a charming ground cover when grown in moist, rocky soils in medium shade.

I recommend a native pachysandra which makes a gorgeous ground cover. Its silvery-green slightly mottled leaves are attractive and are semi-evergreen.

Known as Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*), it boasts spikes of whitish-pink fragrant flowers in spring on 2–4 inch stems. Another benefit of adding this ground cover to your garden is that it attracts many early-spring seekers of nectar, especially bees.



Three hardy native perennials of medium height that are worthy of introducing as garden companions are eastern blue star, ‘Carolina Moonlight’ false indigo, and ‘Raydon’s Favorite’ aster. The eastern blue star (*Amsonia tabernaemontana* var. *salicifolia*) has fine-textured, willow-like foliage and is a great local performer. The

spring-blooming light blue flowers are star-like with white throats. Plants grow 2–3 feet tall in full sun to partial shade and do well in dry to moist soils. In the autumn, their leaves turn a rich golden yellow color. Eastern blue star is a great butterfly nectar plant, and both bees and birds love it.

*Eastern blue star*



Consider planting false indigo (*Baptisia 'Carolina Moonlight'*) as a companion plant. It is beloved for its buttery yellow flowers set on 18-inch spires in late spring. Beautiful blue-green foliage looks great throughout the summer. It is a rugged, adaptable native that is easy to grow and will attract butterflies.

*False indigo*



Also consider planting Raydon's Favorite aromatic aster (*Aster oblongifolius 'Raydon's Favorite'*). It is thought to be one of the best perennial asters due to its mounded, billowy masses of

*Aromatic aster*



violet-blue daisy-like flowers that will delight you in late summer. It thrives in sun with well-drained soil and grows 2–3 feet tall. This native is a butterfly magnet and hosts over 100 species of caterpillars. The name "aromatic aster" comes from the minty fragrance of the foliage.

If you have a space where very tall perennials will be at home, consider growing queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*). Plants can grow up to 6 feet tall and have gorgeous fragrant pink, astilbe-like flowers in sum-

mer. This dramatic beauty has handsome foliage and is loved by butterflies and hummingbirds. Another towering meadow beauty that attracts gold finches

*Queen of the Prairie*



is the cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*). This bold, coarse perennial has yellow daisy-like flowers which appear in summer. Birds are said to drink from the water held in the cups created by the leaves. The birds come in large numbers once the seeds are produced. Cup plants need a lot of room to grow in the sun, so do not

*Cup plant*



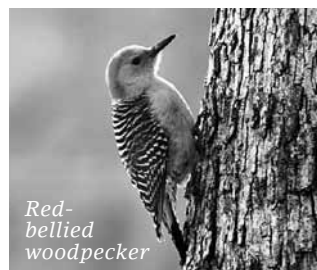
use them in a small space.

Incorporating some natives in our gardens will enhance the greater surrounding landscape while supplying an important connection with the natural heritage of this area. At the same time, view planting natives in your gardens as your personal gift to the environment we all share. I encourage you to bid farewell to some of the overly aggressive non-natives that are currently growing in your gardens. —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**



## IN YOUR BACKYARD

Outside your window, a downy woodpecker hitches its way down a tree trunk, heading for your suet feeder. A flicker pounds its head into your lawn, looking for ants. A red-bellied woodpecker swoops up to your peanut feeder, catching the mesh at the last possible minute to avoid a collision with the pole. Woodpeckers offer an endlessly fascinating study in bird behavior and style. The more you watch, the more engaging they become. Part of it is anatomy. Their broad wings, stiff tail feathers, and unusual toe arrangement



*Red-bellied woodpecker*

are ideally combined for maneuvering quickly through your trees and bushes, screeching to a halt, and grabbing onto the bark with their feet in a perfect, amazing vertical landing. Then, using their tails for counterbalance, they almost rappel down your tree, tail first, until they reach their goal. Almost all woodpeckers are year-round residents in their territories, so as you get to know the woodpeckers in our Glen Echo neighborhood and yards, you can enjoy them throughout the year. —**THE WILD BIRD CENTERS**

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# OUT AND ABOUT

March 19 officially marks the last day of winter. To celebrate, here are just a few events to put a spring back in our step.

In March you may start seeing green, thanks to **St. Patrick's Day**. For those starting the celebrations early, head down to **Old Town Alexandria** on March 3 for a full



*St. Patrick's Day Parade in Old Town Alexandria*

day of **festivities**, including car and dog shows, ending with a bagpipe laden parade. Taking a more contemporary approach to the holiday, join music aficionados at RFK Stadium on March 17 for the largest St. Paddy's festival in America, **Sham-ROCK Festival**. But don't expect anything traditional with a lineup of musicians including Shaggy and many other rock favorites.

Marking its 106th anniversary, this year's **Cherry Blossom Festival** runs

March 20 to April 15 with its standard lineup of cultural events. If you've done the circuit one too many times, try enjoying these pink plum plants with Dumbarton House's **Cherry Blossom Cupcake walking tour** throughout Georgetown. March 31 from 1-3 PM (tickets required, kids under 3 free). With your stomach full, catch the tail end of the annual **Kite Festival** on the Washington Mall. For those interested in competing, this year's

theme is "Paint the Sky."

Commemorating the struggles to get women the right to vote, join **We the Women at National Archives** on March 9. The night's events include speakeasies and a multitude of vendors serving goodies, all from women-owned and -operated businesses. Tickets are steep at \$119, but not as steep as the price to win the vote. As part of Women's History Month, consider joining the **Wikipedia Edit-a-thon**, with PC in hand at the

National Museum of Women in the Arts from 10 AM-3 PM on March 17.

One of my favorite festivals of the year, the **Environmental Film Festival**, runs from March 15-25. Most of the over 100 films are free—documentaries that hit home with an

opportunity to talk with the filmmakers or their subjects.

For history buffs and foodies, register to attend a free lecture by **food historian Laura Kumin** the evening of March 13 at the **Tudor Place Historic House** in Georgetown. Find out all about Hamilton's dinner table just in time to get excited for the general public ticket release date of the Broadway show *Hamilton*, which opens in June at the Kennedy Center. —MONA KISHORE

PHOTO: BALLYSHANERS

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On top of the 300 hundred man hours that the **Land Acquisition Committee** has put into their report to Town Council regarding Town properties, we can now add another 70. On the morning of Saturday, February 10, about 35 residents (and a couple non-residents) came to Town Hall for a **charrette** to discuss the committee's report. With the help of a facilitator from Marriot, people worked in small groups to come up with pros and cons for various futures for Vassar Circle, the Town Hall, and the Town-owned lands over on Tulane and Oberlin Avenues. The ideas were wide-ranging, but there was also a lot of agreement. One of the report's authors, **Shannon Kraus**, pointed out at the conclusion that what hadn't come up over the course of the morning was the idea to simply "do nothing."

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

**Carol Barton** and **Holly Shimizu** will be hosting another Glen Echo **plant swap** in early May. The date and details will be in the next *Echo*. Bring your extra seedlings, divided perennials, or other horticultural treasures for swap. They ask that you not bring invasive plants such as English ivy or periwinkle (*Vinca*). If you need help identifying or se-



lecting which plants to share, they will be happy to advise. Please start saving your pots and labels, and start potting up plants as they emerge.

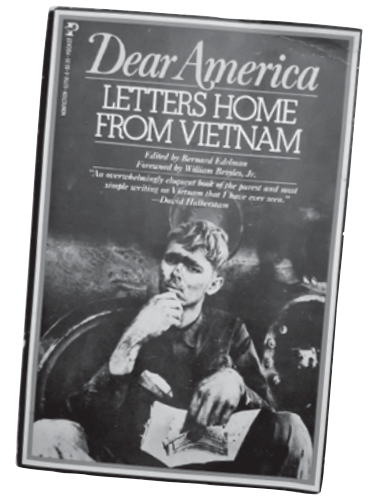
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Every spring for the past sixty-two years, Bannockburn has put on a very fun musical production at the Bannockburn Clubhouse called **The Bannockburn**

**Spring Show**. It is a little-known fact that you do NOT have to live in Bannockburn to get involved. Glen Echoan **Aaron Hirsch** joined the cast last year, and reports: "This year's cast is running a little lean, so they are looking for people who can give it a go—no talent required! Everyone ages 8 to 108 are welcome; younger kids must have a participating parent. You should know that it is a commitment and rehearsals have already started. It all ends with seven shows over two weekends in May." Interested parties can contact Susan Manley at [susan@manleyenterprise.com](mailto:susan@manleyenterprise.com)

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As part of a 14 month-long exhibit on the Vietnam War, the National Archives recently screened **Dear America: Letters**



**Home from Vietnam**. This is the film adaptation of a book of the same name edited by Glen Echo's **Bernie Edelman**. Bernie recommends people check out the stunning photographic exhibit on the 1968 Tet Offensive in Hue city on display at the News-eum through July 8.

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Save the date: On Saturday, April 7, at 3 PM, the **Glen Echo Environmental Committee** is hosting a program at Town Hall to discuss sustainability in our Town and homes. The presentation is open to all residents and refreshments will be served.

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Montgomery County Department of Transportation will hold a **public meeting** on proposed **pedestrian and bicycle improvements to Goldsboro Road** on Thursday, March 8, 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Walt Whitman High School Cafeteria. The project proposes two 11-foot travel lanes for a one-mile segment of Goldsboro Road between MacArthur Boulevard and River Road, a



Town Charrette

sidewalk, and a five-foot, one-way, separated bike lane in each direction. Written comments will be accepted through March 23 at [John.Thomas@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:John.Thomas@montgomerycountymd.gov).

.....  
**G**rinnell freshman **Hannes Kogelnik** of Princeton Avenue was recently profiled in his college's newspaper. Grinnell's basketball team is having a great season and Hannes is one of the "key



factors" in their success. The glowing article concludes: "He already boasts one of the most dangerous three-point shots in the Midwest Conference, and as he continues to develop his game, opposing teams should be wary of a free-shooting 6-foot-7-inch guard who is only improving."

**Real Estate Report**

The two properties for sale in Town are 23 Wellesley Circle, listed at \$1,195,000, and the commercial property at 6110 Oberlin Avenue, listed at \$1,800,000.

**OUR TOWN PARK**

**G**len Echo Park is hosting two interesting events in March and April. First, on March 3 from 1–4 PM, there is a **Private Rentals Open House**. Come learn about the spaces, taste catering samples, view table designs, and meet local party vendors. Options and pricing are also available at [glenechopark.org/rentals-pricing](http://glenechopark.org/rentals-pricing).

The second event is the **2018 House Tour Fundraiser** in support of the Park on Saturday, April 21 from 12–4 PM (rain date is Sunday, April 22). The 5th annual House Tour will be a self-guided walking tour featuring seven unique homes in the Town of Glen Echo, including two homes that showcase artist studios. Tickets are available online for a donation of \$50 for the general public and \$40 for Park members—visit [glenechopark.org/donate-now](http://glenechopark.org/donate-now) and note House Tour Tickets in the "Special Instructions" box. For more information or to volunteer, please contact: Debbie Mueller at [dmueller@glenechopark.org](mailto:dmueller@glenechopark.org). —MARTHA SHANNON



They Say it's Your **BIRTHDAY!**

- March 5 **Aaron Kraus**, 11
- March 5 **Zachary Kraus**, 11
- March 11 **Greta Hirsch**, 7

**GOINGS ON**

**Glen Echo Town Hall Events**

FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, **March 7, 14, 21, 28** 8–10:30 PM, free to Town residents

**Local Events**



**March 2** 2 PM, bring your pre-schooler to Little Falls Library to learn about worms

**March 9** 7–9 PM, Family Night Bingo at the Clara Barton Center; free entry, \$5 cards

**March 21** 1 PM, Literary Salon at Little Falls Library; a discussion of Toni Morrison's *Jazz* for seniors

**Glen Echo Park Events**

**March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** 11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2–5, standard entry fees apply

**March 10** 10 AM–Noon, talk by photographer Frank Van Ripper in the Ballroom's back room, for Park members

**March 11** 3–5 PM, FSGW Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom's back room, \$5

**March 24** 9 AM–Noon, Minnehaha Stream Clean-up, meet at the aquarium



**March 31** Turtle Celebration Day at the aquarium

**The Puppet Co.** [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org); 301-634-5380

**Beauty and the Beast** through March 25

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

**Adventure Theater MTC**

[www.adventuretheater-mtc.org](http://www.adventuretheater-mtc.org); 301-634-2270

**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**, through March 31

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, AT 8 PM  
**LADIES NIGHT**  
 6000 HARVARD AVE • PHYLLIS DAEN HOSTING • 301-675-1741



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 (Communion) 8:00 a.m.  
Nursery Care Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.  
Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.; Eucharist at Noon  
Taize, Mondays in Lent (February 18–March 25, 7:30 pm)

If you are ready to work on your spiritual life in an intimate community faithful to ancient tradition and tickled by our freedom, come by!

■ **MUSIC AT REDEEMER SERIES**

*Sunday, March 11 at 5:00 pm*  
Carmina: Glories of the English Renaissance

*Holy Week at Redeemer (March 25-31)*  
Easter Sunday Services on April 1 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard  
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www.redeemerbethesda.org

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