



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The March 12 Council Meeting convened with Council Member Costello absent, Town lawyer Ron Bolt present, and a handful of residents in attendance.

Town Ordinances

Council Member Stiglitz and Ron Bolt began the meeting by explaining the process for adoption of the updates made to the Town ordinances by the Council over the course of 2017. Mr. Stiglitz explained that for the most part the changes—deletions of irrelevancies or duplicates with State or County law or clarifying language—are insignificant. Drafts of the ordinances with the proposed changes can be found on the Town website under the Town Government tab. This is the time for resident comments on the proposed changes. Emails can be sent to TownHall@GlenEcho.org prior to the April 9 Council meeting for consideration.

The Council hopes to adopt the revisions to the code at that time, unless more substantial changes are deemed necessary after the comment period.

Land Advisory Committee Update

Resident and member of the committee Karim Khalifa called in to brief the Council on results of the charrette that took place at Town Hall on February 10. The upshot was that the participants, a little over 30 residents and a couple non-residents, generally support: 1. some renovation and improvement to the Town Hall to make it a more appealing rental space; 2. optimizing Town properties at Tulane and Oberlin Avenues, primarily by

rezoning them to commercial use; and 3. having some Town-owned green space at Vassar Circle, though it may not be feasible.

Council Member Spealman asked Mr. Khalifa what the next steps should be if the Council decides to pursue rezoning of one or both of the Tulane/Oberlin properties. Mr. Khalifa said that speaking to an architect about the real cost and timeframe of rezoning and

reaching out to several local developers to gauge interest would be reasonable next steps, but he also told the Council that they should discuss those specifics with resident Cris White, the committee member with the most expertise in similar projects. Mr. Stiglitz and Council Member Long both had reservations about moving forward, saying that if the Town experienced a windfall from selling ei-



Built in the 1930s to house the Glen Echo Fire Department, converted into a church in the 1950s, and sold to developer Aaron Hirsch in 2012, the building in the center of Vassar Circle is slated to be demolished over several days starting on April 2. Mr. Hirsch has invited residents to help themselves to any plants and trees on the circle as the whole thing will be cleared.

THE ECHO

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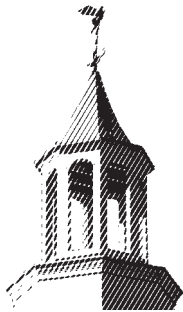
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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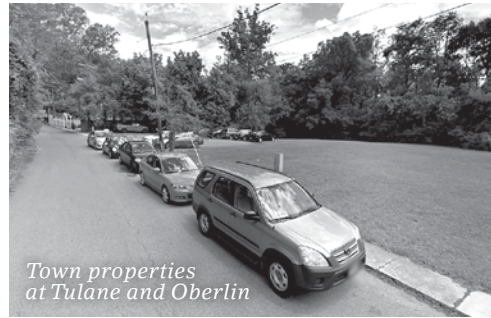
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Next Town Council Meeting: April 9, 2018, 8 PM



nator, so that will proceed soon. Prices have also been gathered by Town Clerk Susan Ladani from Next Day Blinds to

ther of those lands, the money would find a way to get spent, and the rainy day fund wouldn't be there when the Town needed it. Mr. Khalifa pointed out that rezoning doesn't mean that the Town has to sell right away, just that it would be a step closer to selling them at a higher price when the time comes. It was noted by resident Renny Springuel that that Council should consider this matter in time for the May budget hearing.

Town Hall Maintenance

Another matter that needs to be considered before the new budget is drawn up: which Town Hall improvements will be done in the next year. The Council selected a termite extermi-

replace the window treatments upstairs at Town Hall. That expense has not yet been approved. The Council is also mulling an outlay to a company to make improvements to and then manage the Town website going forward. Resident Gloria Levin suggested the Mayor consult certain tech savvy residents before proceeding, which he plans to do.

Another type of maintenance involves archiving the vast historical documents at the Town Hall, a task currently helmed by resident Martha Shannon. She and Ms. Ladani have been going through boxes to get a sense of what we have, and Ms. Shannon will put together an overview with recommendations for the Council. Preservation (maintaining



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originals) and access (digitizing documents) are the primary goals.

Odds and Ends

Mr. Stiglitz reported that the new police station has opened at 4823 Rugby Avenue in Bethesda and that the top crime in the area remains theft from autos.

Resident Matt McFarland notified the Counsel of his plan to remove a river birch tree from his property at 1 Vassar Circle. He also said that he will plant five or six new trees on the right-of-way that he shares with two other neighbors. Ron Bolt will look into how ownership (and therefore maintenance) of those trees is handled in the agreement those owners have with the Town.

Town resident and developer of 2 Vassar Circle, Aaron Hirsch, notified the Council that demolition of the church will begin April 2. All of the trees and plants on the circle will be cleared, so Mr. Hirsch invited interested neighbors to take what they want for their own use.

Town Expenses

In February, the Town paid \$1,300 to Chapel Valley Landscaping, \$931 to Pepco, and \$449 to Dennis Alexander (auditor). —EMILY PARSONS

Montgomery County Department of Transportation's March 8 public meeting on pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Goldsboro Road was attended by about 10 County employees and 25–35 members of the public including at least 5 Glen Echoans. The County presented its plans and engaged in an open discussion with the public. In addition to the details of the project, discussion topics included safety and traffic concerns and improved drainage accommodation for the Minnehaha Branch.

The proposed Goldsboro project will promote use by, increase safety of, and improve access for people walking and biking on Goldsboro between River Road and MacArthur Boulevard. As residents know, the Goldsboro of today is neither

GOLDSBORO UPDATE

safe nor inviting to pedestrians or bicyclists. This project would help change that. Proposed improvements include a 2- to 3-foot buffer with flex posts (like you see on stretches of MacArthur) separating traffic lanes from the 5 to 6 foot-wide bike lanes, one for each direction along Goldsboro, plus a sidewalk running on the Bannockburn side of Goldsboro for the entire length from River Road to MacArthur. The other side of the street will have small stretches of sidewalks, designed primarily to access bus stops. Most improvements will fit within the existing roadway and Goldsboro will still accommodate two-way traffic. Several new crosswalks will

traverse Goldsboro. There will be no new traffic lights. The County's proposed bicycle network ultimately includes extending the Goldsboro bicycle corridor all the way to Bradley Boulevard; however, that is not currently on the table.

The County will complete the planning phase of the proposed project this spring. Funding has not been approved beyond the planning stage. Project construction costs are estimated at \$22M total. If funding is approved it would still take roughly four years to complete with construction split into two phases, two years per phase. Our Montgomery County Council Members will soon decide whether to fund this. Now is the time to reach out to them and let your voice be heard. —PETE EPANCHIN



This rendering shows the proposed changes to Goldsboro Road.

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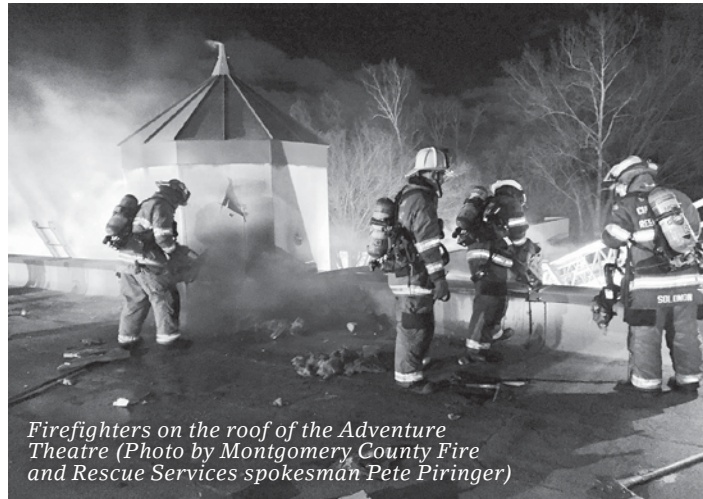
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The smoke has cleared, but the fire that hit the Adventure Theatre MTC facility in Glen Echo Park several weeks ago continues to wreak havoc. The electrical fire broke out in the early morning hours of Friday, March 2—the same day as the epic wind storm that shut down much of the region. Fortunately, no personnel were present and no one was hurt. The cost of the damage is still being estimated. The non-profit theater lost approximately \$30,000 when it was forced to cancel nine shows.

While the theater space itself was unscathed, the theater's offices were significantly impacted, primarily due to smoke and water damage. Everything in the offices will have to be removed, including carpet and flooring and office equipment and furniture. Approximately 2,000 pieces of costuming were lost, as well as use of the birthday party room the theater rents out for events. In addition to the hard-working administrative staff being displaced, the cast of the current production, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, is performing without basic amenities, such as backstage restrooms, kitchen, and laundry facilities.

Fortunately, this resilient bunch has managed to reopen the show and keep it running so that young audiences and their families are

AFTER THE FIRE



Firefighters on the roof of the Adventure Theatre (Photo by Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services spokesman Pete Piringier)

not disappointed. The theater is also continuing its education programming in Wintergreen Plaza in Rockville, as well as using donated temporary space at Pyle Middle School and other spaces within Glen Echo Park. But these efforts are not enough, and the theater needs help. "I have never seen the theater suffer this much damage, and it is a major loss for our non-profit organization," says 11-year Artistic Director and former Glen Echo resident, Michael Bobbitt. However, he is thankful that no one was injured and appreciative of all the support the theater has received.


To aid in its rebuilding efforts, the theater has started the #FILLTHEGAP campaign. While the National Park Service (NPS) has responsibility for external features of the building, the theater is, in all likelihood, going to be responsible for the remaining repairs and

losses and is seeking help in the form of donations to "fill the gap." Information on how to donate can be found on the theater's homepage at www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org. Another way to help is to purchase tickets to *Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt*, which runs from April 20 to June 3 and is recommended for kids 4 and older. Tickets are available on the theater's website.

Other theaters in the area are stepping up, too. Unsolicited, Keegan Theater and Imagination Stage are dedicating a percentage of their profits to #FILLTHEGAP, says Adventure Theatre Managing Director Leon Seemann. He adds, "It's times like these when I am grateful to have an amazing staff and team who is dedicated to this organization. We are thankful to all our friends who have reached out to support us during this difficult time. We

also appreciate the quick response of emergency services of Montgomery County who prevented this tragedy from being even worse."

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, which manages the property on behalf of Montgomery County, has had staff working intensively to schedule repairs and coordinate with both the County and the NPS to move the repair schedule forward as quickly as possible. "We are so glad no one was injured and will do everything we can to get Adventure Theatre back into their office space as soon as possible. Regardless, I'm sure they will need funding to recoup losses, replace their belongings and to rebuild, so we are encouraging people to give to their #FILLTHEGAP campaign to get them back on their feet," said Partnership Executive Director Katey Boerner. "This is the third time the Park has experienced a fire since I became Executive Director in 2002, and it is always very damaging and frightening. For us, the question is how long the National Park Service will take to make the initial repairs and where funds will come from to finish the repairs. This is a significant interruption to Adventure Theatre's operations, but I am optimistic we can all join together to get them back in their space soon." —SUSAN STIGLITZ



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HOLLY IN THE IVY

For many years, ornamental grasses from Asia and other countries became popular in American gardens. However, since people realized how invasive and difficult they are to remove, they have been banned from many gardens. As a result, many lovely perennial native grasses are replacing the non-native varieties. Grasses bring superb texture and movement to a garden, with the side benefit of attracting wildlife.

If you are looking for a native grass that is at home in a rock garden, at the front of a border or as a ground cover, try blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*). It is a low growing, long-lived tufted perennial with fine textured gray-green leaves growing 6-12 inches high and wide. It is durable, drought tolerant, and is used effectively for erosion control. In the garden, it can be used as a lawn substitute as it can be mowed, but, most often, it is placed for its gorgeous dainty flowers that are held horizontally like small little flags and can be enjoyed from summer through autumn. The seeds are a favorite food for many birds, including finches, and it is a larval host for certain butterflies.

Another suggestion is the tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). At

its peak, this grass is like a huge puff of silvery panicles. The plants beautifully refract the late afternoon light. This versatile grass is often grown as an accent, or in groupings or masses in the shade garden. The plants are one foot tall and will reach two feet when in bloom and seed. Indigenous to cool damp habitats, tufted hair grass blends well with ferns and sedges and thrives in a rain garden. The cultivar known as 'Gold-tau' is often selected for its chartreuse yellow flower panicles, low compact habit, and long blooming period.

Blue grama



A dramatic choice would be pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*). When at its peak, this plant is magnificent. The airy, rosy red plumes create spectacular clouds from September through December. This easy-to-grow grass prefers sun but will tolerate partial shade. They will grow to be roughly two to three feet



IN YOUR BACKYARD

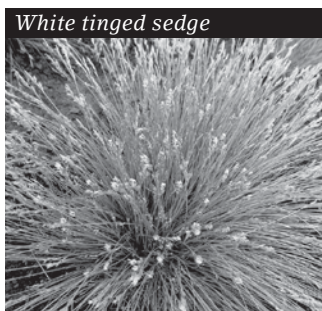


Tufted hair grass

wide and tall. It is native to prairies, pine barrens, and open woodlands from Massachusetts to Kansas and grows well from Florida to Texas. Pink muhly grass attracts lady beetles, provides cover for birds, and offers a secure place for butterflies to perch.

I recommend growing little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) if you want a vertical grass with fine texture and silvery blue upright leaves. In autumn, little bluestem will turn a gorgeous orange/red/bronze with shining feathery flowers. Considered a medium-sized grass, little bluestem foliage grows to two feet, and when in bloom during autumn and winter, it reaches three to four feet. Its drought resistance and deep root system make it an ideal grass for erosion control. If little bluestem is grown in rich soil with plenty of moisture, the plants may flop over and need staking. Best locations are in full sun with

average soil. These plants produce a large number of seeds providing high quality food for a diversity of birds such as orioles, waxwings, chickadees, juncos, and finches. Little bluestem hosts several species of caterpillars and wood nymph butterflies. There are many selections available. One of the most popular is 'The Blues,' which is loved for its deep blue foliage and rich purple and burgundy fall color.



White tinged sedge

Sedges (*Carex sp.*) are a distinctive, hardy, and adaptable group of grasses that offer a trove of textures and colors. Many are evergreen, which adds beauty and value to the winter garden. They provide shelter and food

for beneficial insects and birds. White tinged sedge (*Carex albicans*) is a native that makes a lovely ground cover, growing well in shade or partial shade. Plants form graceful clumps growing 12–15 inches tall with narrow fine-textured leaves. Because these plants are evergreen in most winters, they can be used as a lawn substitute. They are great plants for dry shady situations and for erosion control.

Native grasses are versatile and beneficial. Use them to fill a spot where little else will grow—in dry shade, along a garden walk, on a slope, in a rain garden, as an erosion preventative, or to provide multiple reasons for wildlife and birds to visit your garden. Whatever your need, you will find that native grasses have much to offer as a functional, reliable, beautiful, and low-maintenance addition to your garden. —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**

Clean feeders keep your birds visiting regularly and keep them healthier, too! Here are recommended ways for cleaning several feeder types.

Plastic tube feeders: Clear ports of seed feeders regularly and shake to settle debris. For thorough cleaning, soak the cylinder and removable parts in a solution of one-part white vinegar to one-part hot water and scrub clean. Use a bottle or bird-feeder brush to clean the cylinder or force a rag inside. Rinse and dry thoroughly—moisture left inside the tube may cause your seed to spoil or clump.



Goldfinches

Wood feeders: Scrub periodically with hot soapy water and a stiff brush; rinse and air dry thoroughly.

Hummingbird feeders: Clean with very hot water every three to four days; more often in hot weather. The same 1:1 white vinegar and water solution can be used on your hummingbird feeders, as long as you rinse them very thoroughly. Clean areas around the feeding ports with a Q-tip swab or small hummer feeder brush.

Then sit back and enjoy your birds! —**THE WILD BIRD CENTERS**

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OUT AND ABOUT

News got you down? Start the month by taking out your frustrations in a healthy way by joining compatriots on the National Mall April 1 at 2 PM for **National Pillow Fight Day**. Note: Due to the mess, no down pillows allowed.



National Pillow Fight

If satire's more your mode of coping, make sure to buy your tickets (on sale now) for the District's first ever **DC Comedy Festival** April 10–15. National headliners and local acts alike will be performing at a smattering of restaurants and venues.

Conversely, on April 6–7 will be one of DC's oldest festivals, **FilmFest**, featuring an array of international cinema. Venues include nearby AMC Mazza Gallerie, Landmark Bethesda Row, and Avalon Theatre. For a more local cinematic experience, turn out to the

6th annual **Bethesda Film Fest** showcasing five documentaries by local filmmakers screening also April 6–7 at Imagination Stage.

Hoping the weather calls for sun, combine **Earth Day** on Sunday, April 22, with **National Park Week** April 21–29. Cleanups and hands on planting activities abound all throughout Montgomery County. Check out your favorite park events calendar for details.

In celebration of **International Day of the Book**, Old Town Kensington will be holding their own

festival on April 22 from 11 AM–4 PM with over 100 local writers with various booths spanning Howard and Armory Avenues.

1–6 PM features vinyl vendors from across the region as well as record mixing and local beer. A hipster's paradise. —MONA KISHORE

If you want to see firsthand how vibrant the state of the arts is at Whitman High School, there are two not-to-be missed events this spring:

Talent Show, April 12–14, 7 PM. This very popular event is by ticket only, on sale now at www.whitmandrama.com. Residents Gabriela and Gideon Helf will both be performing in musical numbers.

Festival of the Arts, May 2–3, 6:30–7:30. The gym and other rooms are filled with art from Whitman students. It's amazing to see the creativity and accomplishment coming out of the art department! Glen Echo resident Renz Johnson will have a photo exhibit. —JULIA WILSON

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“Sustainable” is a confusing term, which is difficult to define and has been widely misused. How and why should you manage your property to lower the impact on the environment and support the local ecosystem? On Saturday, April 7, at 3 PM, the Glen Echo **Environmental Committee** is hosting a program at Town Hall to discuss sustainability. The presentation is open to all residents and refreshments will be served.

Resident **Tim Bragan** and Joe Chambers, partners at the DC design studio Landscape Architecture Bureau, will talk briefly about general ecological landscape principles and specific gardening

HAVE YOU HEARD?

techniques before taking questions from the audience. **Holly Shimizu** will give some practical tips on composting.

Sadly, there will be no **Scrummage sale** this spring at the Bannockburn clubhouse. However, you can still do your spring cleaning and bring your gently used clothing, shoes, accessories, books, linens, towels, CDs/DVDs, electrical items, toys, games, kitchen items, knick-knacks, sporting goods, and small household items (no furniture, mattresses, car seats, or strollers) to the clubhouse April 26–April

28. Your donations will raise money for the Bannockburn Nursery School.

If you got out of the habit of going to **Little Falls library** while it was closed for refurbishment or haven't thought of the library as a place for something other than book borrowing, take a look at the list of activities being offered. With regular



weekly story times, tai chi classes, book clubs, and language classes, it's an impressive mix for all ages. And that's before you add in the one-off programming which this month includes a financial planning seminar, a former ambassador discussing China and the U.S., arts and crafts with old book pages, a program about protecting against identity theft, and a kick-off party for a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge.

Real Estate Report

The two properties for sale in Town are 23 Wellesley Circle, listed with a \$50k price reduction at \$1,145,000, and the commercial property at 6110 Oberlin Avenue, listed at \$1,800,000.

OUR TOWN PARK

Glen Echo has always been a town with a history and part of that includes our unique homes! From Chautauqua cottages to modern designs, there is a variety of architectural styles. This year the Glen Echo Park Partnership's annual **House Tour Fund-raiser** will feature seven town homes on Saturday April 21 from 12 to 4 PM. (April 22 rain date). Homes to be featured are 1 Vassar Circle (**McFarland**), 42 Wellesley (**Malmgren**), 26 Wellesley (**Shannon**), 6001 Bryn Mawr (**Parsons-Andur**), 6000 Harvard (**Daen**),

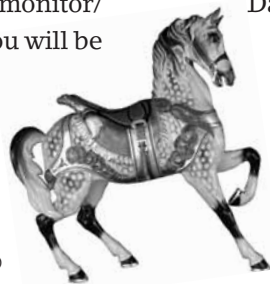
7317 University (**Hirsch**), 6106 Yale (**Stevenson**), and the gardens at 6101 Bryn Mawr (**Shimizu**). Two of the homes feature artist's studios. Tickets are available online for a donation of \$50 for the general public and \$40 for members. Sign up to be a house monitor/volunteer, and you will be able to tour for free before or after your shift. If you wish to volunteer please email dmueller@glenechopark.org.

Have you been longing to ride the historic Dentzel Carousel at the Park? Well your "turn" will come start-

ing Saturday, April 28. The 98th season of this national treasure will be celebrated not only with carousel rides but with fun events. **Carousel Day** includes live music performances, face painting, storytelling, crafts, exhibitions, and a special Tap

Dance Extravaganza in the Spanish Ballroom. There will also be a summer camp open house where families can learn about the Park's many options. The event runs from 11 AM to 4 PM.

An exciting new **pre-school-age program** is being launched at Glen Echo



Park this year. The PAGE program will offer an arts-enriched early childhood curriculum starting in September 2018. Based on the philosophy that Play + Arts + Learning = Growth, the program serves students ages 2 to 5 and incorporates music, movement, and visual arts. Led by experienced early childhood educators, PAGE will run September through May, Monday through Friday mornings, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, with extended day options. Applications are currently being accepted for this program and an Open House will be held Saturday, April 14, from 10 AM to noon. —MARTHA SHANNON



A casualty of the big windstorm of early March: Human intervention was needed to protect 6004 Bryn Mawr from a huge pine which fell from the yard at 20 Wellesley. The tree missed the house by mere inches and no one was injured.



They Say it's Your
BIRTHDAY!

April 5, **Diana Chused**, 3
 April 12, **Durke Anderson**, 8
 April 19, **Adeline Bohi**, 11
 April 20, **Colby Epanchin**, 7
 April 23, **Dessie Corbett**, 12
 April 27, **Max White**, 7



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, AT 8 PM
LADIES NIGHT

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GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance,
 Wednesdays, **April 4, 11, 18, 25**
 8–10:30 PM, free to Town residents



April 7 3 PM, The Environmental Committee hosts a discussion about sustainability in our community

Local Events

April 15 3 PM, Healthy Kids Running kick off race at Palisades Park on Seven Lakes Road

April 21 No entrance fees at Great Falls!

Glen Echo Park Events

April 6, 13, 20, 27 11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2–5, standard entry fees apply

April 8 3–5 PM, FSGW Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom's back room, \$5

April 14 10 AM–Noon, PAGE program (pre-school) open house

April 21 12–4 PM, Glen Echo House Tour fundraiser for GEPPAC



only four weeks
 'til the carousel reopens!

April 28 11 AM–4 PM, Carousel Day (formerly Family Day), music and crafts and other activities to celebrate the Dentzel's 98th season, free

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

Little Red Riding Hood & the 3 Little Pigs through May 12

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

Adventure Theater MTC

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

Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt, April 20–June 3



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
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!

Easter Sunday Services on April 1st at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

■ **MUSIC AT REDEEMER SERIES**

Sunday, April 1st—Easter Services feature our adult and youth choir:

Sunday, April 15 at 5:00 pm—Pianist Sam Post in Concert
Washington pianist Sam Post plays selections from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier and more. Free-will offering. Reception.

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard
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301-229-3770 • office@redeemerbethesda.org
www.redeemerbethesda.org

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