



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The Mayor and three Council Members met July 11 for the monthly meeting. Council Member Stiglitz was absent. Also in attendance were resident Julia Wilson taking the minutes, Town lawyer Ron Bolt, and consultant to the Mayor, Jean Sperling.

Town Business

Armed with an agenda broken down by minute, thanks to Ms. Sperling, the Mayor quickly ran down a list of Town updates. The Town plans to re-write and re-post the position of Town Clerk—possibly Town Manager—perhaps with the help of an outside HR professional. The Mayor is seeing this more as a full-time position. The candidate mentioned at the last Town Council meeting had to back out due to family obligations, so the position remains unfilled for now.

The Town will hire someone to conduct a traffic study on the impact of adding stop signs on

University Avenue at Yale and Bryn Mawr Avenues. The goal is to slow thru traffic from the post office and make it safer for Town residents. Also CASE will be re-erecting several Town street signs that have been knocked over.

The Mayor discussed the possibility of creating a Special Event Committee for Town parties, a Town Hall Rental Committee, whose first task would be researching comparable rental rates, and a Welcoming Committee for new residents. He also mentioned rates for various storage rental options for Town documents currently boxed and stacked to the ceiling at Town Hall.

The Archives

Which brings us to the update from resident Martha Shannon, who is helping the Town tackle the archiving of its historical documents. The first step is to create an action plan (what to save, how to save it, where to save it, plus digitizing files). Ms. Shannon presented two options to the Council. The first would be to hire a firm that could go through everything and craft a plan in six weeks for \$10,000. The second is to hire an individual who works at the Montgomery County Historical Society, who would not only create an action plan, she would take on the task of preserving the necessary papers. The fee for this would be \$5,000, but the timeframe would likely be more than six weeks. The Council asked that Ms. Shannon find out the estimated timeframe from the individual.

Glen Echo Park Update

As a board member of the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Ms. Shannon also briefed the Council on the status of the Partnership's agreement with the County. First established in 2002, lapsed in 2017, and now delayed again for a month—new deadline July 7—the agreement will likely be completed soon with little change from the original. Ms. Shannon suggested that the Partnership's executive director Katey Boerner come speak to the Council about any changes after the agreement is in place. Ms. Shannon also mentioned that the National Park Service will be replacing the roof of the carousel this fall.

Real Estate

Resident and member of the Town's Land Advisory Committee Cris White came to talk to the Council about first steps if the Town decides to

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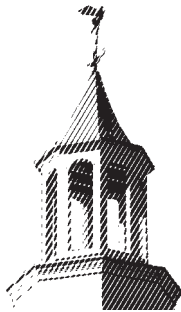
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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CLERK-TREASURER

(coming soon)

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

proceed with rezoning its properties on Tulane and Oberlin Avenues. One of the suggestions from the Committee was that it may be wise for the Town to convert the properties from residential to commercial, whether or not their sale is imminent, increasing their value for when the Town decides to sell them. Historically, the properties have been seen as the Town's rainy day fund, but if an urgent need for those funds arose, the Town would be at the whim of the markets and would have to take what it could get. Other options include: rezone and sell and keep that rainy day fund liquid in bonds, for example; rezone and have ready to

sell as commercial properties if needed; or rezone and sell just one property now. That would more than cover the cost of rezoning and it was mentioned that the Irish Inn might be interested in buying one of the properties for parking.

Mr. White said that he didn't have any hard numbers, but some estimates were mentioned: rezoning could cost \$100,000, but the property values could go from \$400,000 each to \$600,000. The first step, according to Mr. White, would be to talk to some people who could give more accurate estimates. Residential and commercial brokers, *(continued on page 4)*



JULY 4 PARADE DETAILS

Please join us for the second annual **Glen Echo Independence Day Parade**, bigger and badder than ever before (or at least than last year's parade). This year we'll have a GEFD fire truck leading the way, followed by you and your loved ones on bikes, strollers, wagons, weird little cars, feet, and any other conveyance that can be festively draped in red, white, and blue. Musical instruments—real or improvised—are particularly welcome in light of the pre-July 4 departure of **Jimmy Corbett**—bagpiper and linchpin of last year's parade—from Glen Echo.

We'll step off from the pocket parks at Princeton Avenue and University at 10:30 AM on July 4, make a loop around Vassar Circle, and return to the pocket parks for a brief, refreshing, and epic water balloon battle and popsicles. We'll provide flags.

Come one, come all, either as participants or spectators (seriously, we could use some spectators). Please let me know if you're planning to join us! —ANGELA HIRSCH

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Nursery Care; conversation with the rector	9:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays: Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.; Eucharist at Noon	

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■ MUSIC AT REDEEMER SERIES

Our Music Series for 2017-2018 is concluded.
Information regarding next season will be available in August.

Our Adult Choir travels to Bristol, UK, to sing at the cathedral there next month.

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(continued from page 2)

land-use attorneys, and civil engineers would be needed to give a clearer picture of the value and process. The Town would also need to approach the County to see if there were any impediments to rezoning that we need to know about. If the Town felt unsure about that initial outlay for rezoning, it is also possible to have a commercial real estate broker take on the risk, but then profits are also more limited.

The Council was interested in taking the next steps—reaching out to folks who could give a clearer picture of what the process and potential for success would be—and Mr. White said he could provide some names.

Animal Control Ordinance

The Council gave a brief summary of its June 5 meeting (story at right). Town lawyer Ron Bolt had in the interim rewritten the ordinance to allow and regulate chickens. It was a first draft and incorporated many of the ideas mentioned on June 5. However, some of the inclusions made residents uncomfortable—in particular a requirement for neighbor consent—and Council Members quickly distanced themselves from it, stressing that it was a first draft that they had just received and hadn't had a chance to rework. The debate switched to whether that draft should be posted on the Town's website as is for resident feedback or be held until the Council had a chance to edit it. The decision was to post it immediately, but as of this writing it has not yet been posted. —EMILY PARSONS

CHICKENS COMING HOME TO ROOST?

It was not surprising that a June 5 Council meeting billed as a "work session on Article 2 of the Town ordinances" in an email sent just one day prior did not attract many residents. But it was, in fact, an interesting discussion of the animal control ordinance that seemed to move the conversation forward. All of the Council Members and the Mayor were present as was resident Julia Wilson recording the minutes and Town lawyer Ron Bolt.

Council Member Stiglitz kicked it off, making his suggestions about what the two main issues were for the Council to address. First, a change in the ordinance to allow for chickens: He pointed out that chickens are the only animals being pursued in earnest in Town right now, though bees, pigs, goats, and many other small farm animals have been lumped into the debate. So, if the Town is going to change its animal control ordinance, it should begin with chickens and after a few years, if the exercise has proven successful and residents desire other animals be allowed, there will be a process for regulating them in place and the ordinance can be amended at that time.

The second item in the code which has raised concern from residents regards the list of nine rules pertaining to dogs and cats, all of which come with the penalty of a fine. Mr. Stiglitz argued here that none of these rules are new in the law. Instead of simply deferring to the County as the code did in the past, the Town is pulling out nine items that it feels are important

enough that the Town will enforce them in the event that the County is ineffective. In reality that means that the new code regarding domesticated pets is, if anything, more lenient than in the previous version. Mr. Stiglitz said that responsible pet owners should be in favor of the nine rules in the new code and stressed that no one was going to get fined for one-time incidents—the fines are for



A SUMMARY OF RULES FOR DOG & CAT OWNERS

(for exact language, see GlenEcho.org)

- Don't let animals other than altered cats be at large.
- Don't allow animals to defecate on other people's property.
- Don't allow animals to enter other people's property.
- Don't let a cat in heat be at large.
- Don't create an unsanitary environment due to the size or number of animals.
- Don't let animals cause noise that disturbs neighbors.
- Obtain any necessary licensing.
- Don't let your animals have unwanted contact with people or other animals.
- Don't allow your animal to be a public nuisance.

repeat offenders and owners who aren't responsive to neighborly pleas for appropriate pet behavior.

Mr. Stiglitz said it was his opinion that Council did not need to further rewrite the language in the code pertaining to domesticated animals. The rest of the Council seemed to agree, so the discussion thereafter covered issues such as whether non-residents need to comply with these rules (They do!), how to make the rules clear to the dog-walking thru traffic (More signs?), and if the Town should revive the animal control board it used to have.

Which brings us back to chickens. Council Member Costello agreed with Mr. Stiglitz that the Council should work on amending the ordinance to allow chickens only. Mr. Stiglitz also said that he thought the Council should impose fairly strict rules regulating the animals, because the County code is so vague and because it can't be assumed that all chicken owners will be as diligent as the Andersons, the family that has inspired this change to Town law. Council Member

Spealman made the point that if the Council is going to invest the time to make this change, the result should be that residents can, in fact, have chickens. Council Member Long remembered fondly the chickens she had in Glen Echo as a girl, while the Mayor expressed skepticism about allowing chickens citing their smell, the rodents they attract, and the small lot sizes in Town.

However, the Council Members and Mayor seemed amenable to proceeding with a discussion of what an ordinance allowing for chickens would look like. What would the permitting process be? Would interested parties need neighbor consent? Would chicken owners be responsible for pest abatement on neighboring properties? What would the fee for the permit be? Would it need to be renewed annually? Would there be fence height requirements? Caging requirements?

It quickly became clear that there are a lot of specifics to consider in this new version of the ordinance. At the end of the meeting, the Mayor said that he and the Town lawyer would take a first stab at crafting an ordinance allowing for chickens. All the Members seemed fine with leaving the domestic animal portion of the ordinance as it stands now in the updated version of the Town code. —EMILY PARSONS



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IN YOUR BACKYARD



HOLLY IN THE IVY

Exciting news! If you have trouble with deer, chipmunks, or rabbits, I recently learned about two new products that could really help keep these critters away from your plants. Gardeners are reporting success with a new product called Deer Off, used to repel deer, rabbits, and squirrels through both scent and taste. Although odorless to humans, it applies a scent that mimics a decaying animal, causing the critters to avoid the area. In addition, it gives the plants a powerful, burning flavor—like garlic and hot peppers—which makes them unappealing to animals. It is weather-resistant and completely safe for humans and pets, and is said to last



up to 90 days after one application. Deer Off, made by Havahart, can be purchased in a ready-to-use formula or as a concentrate. In checking on-line, don't confuse this new product with Havahart's alternative and less effective one also called Deer Off, which is made from dried blood. On my recent trip to England, gardeners were raving about a new product called Hum Wire. It has various names including Bird Blinder Repellent Scare Humming Line. This product is a polypropylene tape that is tied between fence posts, trees, or stakes to create a hum-

ming sound. This tape is geared towards deterring birds, but also deters deer, chipmunks, rabbits, and much more. With variations in wind speed and direction, the vibrations created by the tape fluctuate, so animals do not get used to the sound. Some descriptions refer to Hum Wire as "scarecrow in a tape."


If neither of these appeal to you, try another possibility such as breaking up Irish Spring soap into little pieces and spreading it around the plants that need protection. Or put up a fence that is at least 8 feet tall for deer and for rabbits only 2 to 3 feet but 6 inches into the ground so they can't go under it. Whatever you do, there are no guarantees, but, more often than not, your work is worth the effort. —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**

Is it "PIE" or "PIL"? What is the correct pronunciation of "pileated" as in the woodpecker name? PIE-lee-ated is the preferred pronunciation, but PIL-ee-ated is also just fine. How's that for coming down on both sides of the issue? There's likely to be some other fine regional versions too! Your bird columnist personally loves pies so it's easy as "PIE" for me to remember. Ornithologists are undecided about many things so why not a little word pronunciation as well?

Pileated woodpecker



By the way, the Latin word pileatus, which means "capped" or "crested," refers to this bird's impressive red crest. A gorgeous bird, no matter how you say it. Pileated Woodpeckers are common here in Glen Echo and heard often too. Go to YouTube.com and search for "WildBirdCenters" where you can watch a local Pileated tearing up a stump right beside our building on MacArthur Boulevard. —**THE WILD BIRD CENTERS**



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OUT AND ABOUT

Outdoor movie festivals aside, July brings with it a myriad of worldly events for those staying local this summer.

For its third straight year, the University of the District of Columbia will be celebrating **all things Colombian culture**. Artists, food, and dance will be on display the afternoon of Saturday, July 8.

A bit outside of its normal lineup, The Kennedy Center plays host to the **District of Comedy Festival** July 19 to 21. Performances will vary from free Millennium



music, and comedy. Returning to the National Harbor, **UniverSoul Circus** will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this month. But catch them before their last performance on July 22. On the evening of Saturday, July 7, from 6 to 10 PM, join the festivities for

Stage acts to more notorious standup specialists you may have caught recently on a Netflix special.

If experimental art forms are your thing, check out one or many of the **Capital**

Fringe Festival events peppered throughout the city July 9 to 21. Initially positioned as a theatre festival, Fringe has now morphed into including many more genres such as dance,

Alexandria, Virginia's 269th birthday at Oronco Bay Park. A live symphony orchestra, food, and fireworks make this party a family friendly affair. —MONA KISHORE

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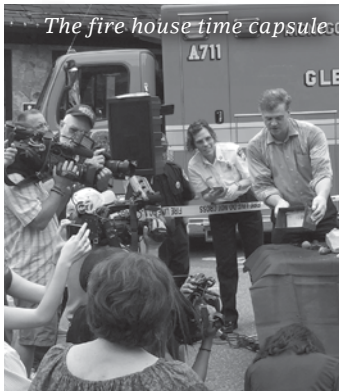
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The question of what was in the **time capsule** placed by the Glen Echo Fire Department in the cornerstone of their Glen Echo fire house was answered at a ceremony in the parking lot of the Irish Inn on June 2. The crowd of past and current fire fighters, former congregants of the Glen Echo Baptist Church, residents of Glen Echo, and a surprising number of TV camera crews didn't seem particularly disappointed when the contents were revealed: yellowed papers, like the program for the cornerstone laying, lyrics from patriotic songs, and a masonic lodge letter, a few



The fire house time capsule

HAVE YOU HEARD?



Glen Echo's new Little Free Library

business cards, and a 1935 penny. So, no fun surprises, but it was still a special local event, with resident and developer of 2 Vassar Circle **Aaron Hirsch** chiseling away at the cornerstone and resident and museum specialist **Martha Shannon** exhuming the documents with gloved hands.

The long-awaited **Glen Echo Little Free Library** was unveiled at a dedication ceremony on

June 9 in the park at the corner of University and Princeton Avenues. That land had been given to the Town by the late resident Shirley Strong. About two dozen residents turned up on the sunny summer morning to celebrate the opening of the library and the efforts of all involved to bring about its creation. The charming structure has been a group effort: built by **Matt Stiglitz**, decorated and painted by **Carol**

Barton, with the supporting post installed by **Henry Barrow**. **Dia Costello**, who was the driving force behind it all, will be the Town librarian, making sure that the books are in good order and maintaining a balance of children's, young adult, and adult tomes. Residents are welcome to borrow or even keep books from the library and can add to the collection as desired.

Ryan Chitwood, son of **Claire Kelly**, graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in chemistry in May. Congratulations!



Ryan Chitwood

In 2017, the cooperative nursery school at Concord-St. Matthews United Methodist Church received word from the pastor that the secular preschool would begin incorporating Christianity into its curriculum. This led to a mass exodus of families and faculty, who eventually found a home at a new preschool at Glen Echo Park: the **PAGE preschool**. Open houses were conducted, applications accepted, and class rosters filled, but then the permitting process didn't go as expected. The new school will not be

OUR TOWN PARK

The Annual **Labor Day Art Show** is fast approaching: This year it runs September 1-3 in the Spanish Ballroom. There is a lot to do to prepare for this fun event, starting with the Call for Entries. Entry is open to all artists with original works created within the last two years. All works

must be for sale and submissions need to reflect the work that you will be exhibiting in the show. Submissions cannot have been entered in a prior Labor Day Art Show. An application must be completed and submitted to be considered. A limited selection of children's work will also be accepted.

The show features work from more than 200 artists

from the greater Washington, DC area. The display includes a wide range of media, such as sculpture, paintings, works on paper, ceramics, fiber arts, jewelry, photography, and furniture. Submit an application, which can be found at GlenEchoPark.org, by August 1 and be part of this great local tradition.

—**MARTHA SHANNON**

opening this fall, and area families who planned to attend have been scrambling to find other options for their little ones. Park Partnership executive director Katey Boerner told *The Echo*, "We are working with Montgomery County to pursue a state license for the program. We do not have a time frame yet for when it could launch, but it is still in the works." Here's hoping it comes through for the following year, adding another way for people to access and experience Glen Echo Park. The PAGE preschool had plans to incorporate the Washington Conservatory, the dance studio, Adventure Theatre, and the aquarium into its program—not many small preschools can boast such resources.



Shumard oak

The Shumard Oak located behind 42/44 Wellesley Circle lost a mas-

sive branch that measures 4.5 feet in diameter and approximately 70 feet in length. According to Joe Howard of the Montgomery County Forestry Board, the tree is the one of the largest Shumard Oaks in Maryland, with a trunk circumference of almost 22 feet and a height of about 130 feet. It is estimated to be 150–200 years old.

.....

Adventure Theatre has announced its lineup for the 2018–2019 season, its 67th. First up, starting in September, is *Blueberries for Sal*, co-adapted by the theater's director and former Glen Echoan **Michael Bobbitt**. The holiday show will be *Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas*, and 2019 will bring *Huckleberry Finn's Big River*, *Winnie the Pooh*, and *The Cat in the Hat*. The final show of the 2017/18 season, now playing, is *Tinker Bell*.

Real Estate Report

6103 Princeton Avenue has sold for \$860,000. 6001 Yale Avenue is still listed at \$1,095,000, and 2 Vassar Circle prospective homes remain listed \$1,399,000, with the lots available for \$599,000. The commercial property at 6110 Oberlin Avenue is not currently listed.

They Say it's Your **BIRTHDAY!**
July 7 **Louisa White, 4**

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

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

July 22 5–8 PM

TOWN SUMMER PICNIC

enjoy California Tortilla and the waterslide with neighbors, BYOB and desserts



Glen Echo Park Events

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

July 6 6–8 PM, Art Walk in the Park on the first Friday of each month through September; open studios, galleries, spoken word series, and a Casual Concert at the Washington Conservatory of Music

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

Summer Concert Series

Thursdays at 7:30 PM, in the Bumper Car Pavilion, free

July 5 Oasis Island Sounds

July 12 U.S. Marine Band Jazz Fusion Ensemble

July 19 Alif Laila (Sitar) & Suryaksha Deshpande (Tabla)

July 26 Real Live Jazz Quartet

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Snow White & the Seven Dwarves, through Aug. 5

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

Adventure Theater MTC

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

Tinker Bell, through August 20

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, AT 8:00 PM
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Aaron Hirsch 202-255-8313
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