



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ JUNE 2019

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The May 13 meeting had some fresh faces, including newly elected Council Member Julia Wilson and newly hired Clerk-Treasurer Beth Boa. The other Council Members, Mayor Polak, and his advisor Jean Sperling, were all in attendance.

Town Business

The Mayor began by swearing in Ms. Wilson, the re-elected Council Member Dia Costello, and Ms. Boa. Election Supervisor Jan Shaut confirmed the election results, reporting that 72 votes had been cast in the May 6 election and thanking that day's volunteers: Maire Hewitt, Susan Grigsby, and Patty Sieber.

Ms. Boa, who had been on the job already for several weeks, presented the financial report to the Council. She mentioned that so far \$2,900 in building permit fees has been collected. Also, of note, the funds allotted for the archiving project have been spent. The Council is waiting for

the archivist to propose next steps in the process.

Town Hall floors will be refinished this month, fit in between the English Country Dancers' regular Wednesday rental. The Town is renewing its policy with Local Government Insurance Trust. The Mayor and Ms. Boa will be meeting with LSWG, the Town's new auditor. And trash pick-up will continue with



the two pick-ups per week; the cost savings of going to once weekly was just \$76 a month. Finally, the date of July 21 was selected for the Town's annual summer picnic—Mark your calendars!

Town Budget

There was a short discussion before next year's budget was passed. Council Member Spealman asked the Mayor why Specialized Legal Fees were going up. The Mayor said that this was in anticipation of changing the zoning (to commercial) for one or both of the Town's properties over at Oberlin and Tulane Avenues. It was noted that revenues are down, in part,

because residents fighting their property assessments haven't paid their taxes. Also worth mentioning, the budget for landscaping is

dropping dramatically from past years. The reason given for this was a streamlining of services—fewer providers—with multi-year contracts and locked-in rates.

Permitting Fees

A couple of years ago, the Council updated and re-passed the Town's ordinances en masse. However, in tallying fees for the new Vassar Circle construction, it was discovered that the ordinance requiring homes receiving a gas line to pay a one-time \$300 fee had slipped through the cracks. It was approved this night, and added to the fee schedule as well.

Vassar Circle

Ground has been broken at Vassar Circle! The Mayor said that from his perspective having engineer Joe Toomey and site manager Wayne Fowler monitoring on behalf of the Town has been a huge help. Mr. Toomey submitted a report

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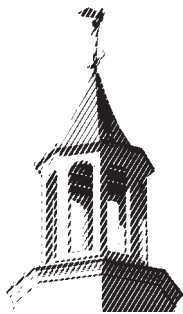
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Next Deadline: June 20, 2019

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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Beth Boa (townhall@glenecho.org)

Next Town Council Meeting: June 10, 2019, 8 PM

that said that the rough grading of the right-of-way can commence now that the utility poles have been moved. He wrote that once the rough grading is complete, the WSSC and Washington Gas connections from the mains to the properties can be installed.

Due to the aqueduct running along MacArthur Boulevard, trucks are required to enter and exit Town via Oxford Road. Over the past month, trucks have not been strictly following this protocol. The Mayor said that he and Council Member Stiglitz planned to alert the County to help with policing. During this meeting, the Council discussed the viability of putting up signs at each intersection; passing a Town ordinance; and putting language about truck routes in the building permits. Town lawyer Mr. Bolt, who joined the meeting midway, said this last option could be tried out with the permit for the second Vas-sar Circle home.

Odds and Ends

Mr. Bolt has offered an hour-long new-council-member training, and several Council Members will participate.

Ms. Costello plans to reach out to residents about composting with Compost Crew. If 20 families participate, the rate will go down to \$15/month/family. If interested, look out for her email.

In response to a recent

listserv string about irresponsible dog owners, poop was on the agenda. Everyone had a story about abandoned bags and unscooped dog droppings. Perhaps there has been an uptick in non-Glen Echoan canine foot traffic? It definitely seems to be a huge problem for the homes in the blocks nearest to the Park. But Columbia Avenue resident Don Dworsky reported that this has always been an extreme issue on his rather hidden-from-sight street. Ms. Sperling said that many towns address this problem with signs and stations with baggies and trash receptacles. The Council decided that they weren't ready to go all-in yet, but Ms. Wilson said she'd do some research into pick-up-after-your-pet sign options for the next meeting.

Mr. Stiglitz said that perhaps before investing in these preventive measures, the Council should revisit the still-unadopted animal control ordinance—long ago stalled due to debate over the dog and chicken rules. The meeting ended in groans.

Town Expenses

In April, the Town paid \$3,500 to Hughes Landscaping, \$3,038 to Goode Companies, \$2,000 to Glen Echo Park Partnership, \$1,609 to Bolt Legal, \$1,598 to Exquisite Floor Enterprise, and \$1,030 to Advance Business Systems. —EMILY PARSONS

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The most majestic tree in Glen Echo is the American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Its uniquely exfoliating bark exposes the whites, greens, and creams of the trunk and branches. As one of our tallest trees, this statuesque plant can be easily spotted growing in the alluvial soils along the streams near the Potomac River. As you drive on the 495 bridge from Virginia to Maryland, look down along the banks of the Potomac River. You will see the American sycamores right away as their stunning white bark jumps right out. Near Glen Echo you will notice that many American sycamores grow on the islands. They can withstand complete flooding while helping to hold the islands together, and they tolerate the heat and dryness of summer. Thus, this statuesque plant is an excellent choice to be the officially



American sycamore

designated Tree of The Town of Glen Echo.

Although sycamores are found primarily in alluvial soils, the American sycamore is remarkably adaptable and is now being grown as a beautiful street tree which provides shade, and, like other trees, cleans the air and water. Relatively fast growing, these trees can grow from 70 to 100 feet. Their leaves are distinctive, much like large maple leaves. In England, the plant they call sycamore is actually a maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). A close relative of the American sycamore is the oriental plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*), which comes from Southeastern Europe and Asia Minor. It is rarely planted in the U.S. although it is one of the parents of the London plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*), which is a hybrid resulting from the native sycamore and the non-native oriental

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sycamore. We often see the London plane-tree used in street plantings, as a shade tree, and as a specimen tree. Its most lovely features are the peeling bark on the trunk and the ball-like seed heads.

One of the main health issues that can challenge the American sycamore is a fungal disease called anthracnose. When the spring weather is cool and wet, it can cause a problem on the leaves and twigs. Trees will lose their leaves but they grow back and the trees are usually fine when warmer, dryer weather comes around. Fortunately, this fungus problem is weather

dependent and rarely fatal.

Sycamores can take heavy pruning and are sometimes coppiced, which means the tree trunk is cut back near the ground resulting in promotion of a thick head of leaves and branches. Recently, it has become an important tree in "biomass farms" in the Southeastern U.S. It is not uncommon to see sycamore trees pollarded, which is when the trees are cut back at a higher level, as a sort of pruning to keep the trees smaller and create a dense canopy. I have seen this done a great deal in Europe and Japan. I prefer to see

the trees mature naturally as they have a stunning growth habit.

The American sycamore has value for wildlife. Seeds are eaten by purple finches, goldfinches, chickadees and dark-eyed juncos. As the trees age, some may develop hollow trunks – these cavities provide shelter for wildlife such as the barred owl, eastern screech owl, and great crested flycatchers.

Can you find the American sycamores in Glen Echo? Take a walk and see how many you can find – I suspect there are more than you might think! —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**

MINI FARM STAND NEWS

The garden for the Glen Echo Mini Farm Stand has been planted with beets, leeks, 38 heirloom tomato plants, and 44 pepper plants (mostly sweet, but a few with a fiery bite). In a few weeks we'll have rhubarb along with Nick's farm-fresh organic eggs, and following that, summer squash and cucumbers. This year I've added five raised beds which should help cut down on weeding and improve drainage so our plants don't drown in our heavy spring storms. The pepper plants are in wire cages, but I plant the tomatoes using what is known as the

"Florida weave" system: driving posts every few feet, planting tomatoes between them, then weaving twine between the posts and the tomato plants to keep them upright as they grow.

The Mini Farm Stand is not out on a set schedule, but I email people in Town when there is produce avail-

able. As usual, the stand will be located on University between Harvard and Yale Avenues in front of the Kishore's house. Payment is by the honor system, with a price list and cash box on the table. And although our vegetables are not "certified organic," we don't use any pesticides or chemicals in

our garden. If anyone new wants to be added to the notification list for when the farm stand is available, just email me with the subject "Mini Farm Stand" at cbarton@mindspring.com. We look forward to a bountiful year! —**CAROL BARTON**



You'll find the Mini Farm Stand in the same location as last month's Plant Swap, organized by Carol Barton and Holly Shimizu.

ORIOLE PHOTO: TRACEY CROW SELKIRK



IN YOUR BACKYARD

Springtime prompts this seasonal reminder that we also have the potential to attract great backyard birds who love non-seed foods ... and fruit flies as a bonus? There are a number of birds that eat fruit. Orioles love citrus fruits. Just cut



Baltimore Oriole with orange

an orange open and place it on a platform or screen-bottom feeder or on a spike on your fence. The fruit should be placed "inside up" so your birds can readily eat the pulp and juice.

Other birds such as bluebirds, woodpeckers, and jays, can be attracted with halved apples. Grape jelly and strawberry preserves (a great opportunity to test other flavors too!) are enjoyed by many of these same birds. An added benefit of placing fresh and over-ripe fruit out is that it may attract fruit flies, a favorite protein supply for many birds, including hummingbirds!

Note: Another all-time winning food is meal worms, which will attract wrens, catbirds, and bluebirds to your yard! —**THE WILD BIRD CENTERS**



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Each year as the trees start to blossom, the signs come out along MacArthur Boulevard and Wilson Lane: the Bannockburn Spring Show. While the show is a beloved institution in Bannockburn—this was its sixty-third consecutive year—I’ve been surprised to find that many Glen Echoans haven’t seen it, much less been involved. The Hirsch family is changing that: Join us next year!

The Spring Show formula is well established, based on new lyrics to well-known melodies. Song topics are evenly split between local listserv news and national politics and are submitted by the neighborhood’s bottomless pool of talented writers. Stitch the songs together loosely around a theme; this year was “Count on Bannockburn.” Perform for friends and neighbors (preferably after everyone has loosened up with a glass or two of wine).

As I wrote this article I found myself starting paragraphs with, “the best thing about the Spring Show” and “another great thing” So in the spirit of this year’s countdown theme, I present a list of my own:

Top 10 Things about Being in the Spring Show

- 10 Singing with others—and with a talented live band—makes you feel really good.
- 9 You get better at singing. My husband, Aaron, knew he wanted to join the

STAGE STRUCK

PARTICIPATING IN THE BANNOCKBURN SPRING SHOW

cast after seeing it a few years ago. He’s not a natural singer but he has a lot of dramatic flair; his singing has gotten rather good in the process.

8 It upends your routine. True, there are a lot of re-

ing Glen Echoans (expect some good-natured “wrong side of the tracks” ribbing).

5 There are seven performances over the course of two weeks, and I thought it might get a little boring. In fact, I found that all the jokes



Bannockburn Men in Kilts

hearsals, but you also find yourself singing in traffic, practicing dance moves in the mirror, and perusing listservs and thrift shops for superhero suits and cowboy boots.

7 The show is a labor of love, and it’s incredibly well-run. There are directors and producers and music directors and stage and lighting crews and bartenders, all doing their part to make the shows a success.

6 You get to know dozens of new folks and immediately have something in common. Everyone is welcome, includ-

ing Glen Echoans (expect some good-natured “wrong side of the tracks” ribbing).

4 Being on stage—even a little one—is a thrill. Performing for your friends and family and complete strangers is a little bit terrifying but mostly delightful.

3 You start to absorb news in a new way, asking yourself, “could there be a song here?” I’ve already written a song for next year (I hope!) about MCPS snow day policies and am noodling on another one about nosy neighbors going to open houses.

2 The cast has history of its own. Its members range in age from eight to eighty-something.

Some cast members have been doing the show since the 1970s; others performed as children and rejoined the cast when they returned to Bannockburn as adults. Some adults were dragged into the cast by their children, then continued to per-

form long after their children were grown. I joined Aaron this year, and our kids want to do it next year.

1 The most remarkable thing about the show is its longevity. It’s been performed every year since 1957. That makes it the

longest-running community musical theater production in the country, according to whatever or whomever tracks such things.

One line in the opening number got me every time, and captures the spirit of the show perfectly:

Back in ‘57 our neighbors made a show with staying power / Think how glad they would be / To see you about to see sixty-three.

See you at Spring Show 64!
—ANGELA HIRSCH



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OUT AND ABOUT

The 39th **Washington Folk Festival** kicks off the month June 1 and 2 in our very own Glen Echo Park. Also on June 1, check out **Trukgarten** in Takoma Park to enjoy some of the area's top food trucks alongside live music in the parking lot adjacent to the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op.

Not sure what to plan for Father's Day? Don't plan anything and simply head out to the idyllic **Lavender Festival at Springfield Manor Winery** in Thurmont, MD. Among the acres of peaking lavender flowers, every family photo will look especially storybook.



Lavender Festival at Springfield Manor Winery

If you missed neighboring Bannockburn's May Fair, you have more chances to get out and play. **Chevy Chase Recreation Center** will be celebrating **Field Day 2019** June 2 from 2 to 5 PM with a splash-themed array of events free to all.

Get a birds' eye view of your gorgeous surroundings with a free happy hour happening June 13 from 5 to 8 PM on the rooftop of the Kennedy Center. Contemporary artists and DJs will be adding to the ambiance for a rare event being called

Records on the Rooftop. Keep the music flowing with **JazzFest at The Wharf** June 14 through 16. Performances by over 20 Grammy-award winning and local artists.

This year, sadly, due to the government shutdown, the Smithsonian was forced to drastically pull back on its epic summer annual **Folklife Festival**. Despite the cuts, the festival will go on, but for a considerably shorter period. The festival will still take place on the National Mall and will run June 29 and 30. This year's theme is the social power of music. —MONA KISHORE

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Glen Echo has a new Clerk-Treasurer! **Beth Boa** hails from Massachusetts, but has lived her adult life in Maryland. She moved down in 1986 to attend Hood College in Frederick, and spent her early career years at Johns Hopkins and the American Chemistry Council. Her more recent

HAVE YOU HEARD?

work experience has been in municipal management. She was the assistant and then acting manager in Martin's Additions for two years. The Clerk-Treasurer position here was just what she was looking for when her friend

Wayne Fowler (who oversees construction projects on behalf of the Town) sent her the job description. She and her husband Michael had their twins, Emily and Benjamin, in 2001, and raised them in Kensington,



Beth Boa

where they live still. Beth has fond memories of bringing her kids to Glen Echo Park for the puppet shows when they were little. Beth plans to have office hours at Town Hall 9:30 to 3:30 weekdays. And bonus, she is a notary public and has offered her service free to residents by appointment.

.....
Girl Scout Troop 34037, which includes Glen Echoans **Corrina Spealman** and **Eliza White**, is working on a Bronze Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can earn. To earn a Bronze Award, the girls identify a need in their community and plan a service project to address it. The troop has decided to plan a fundraiser for Com-

CLASS OF 2019

We wish all Glen Echo graduating seniors the best of luck in their next endeavors! **Gabriela Helf** is graduating this month from Walt Whitman High School and will be attending Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota in the fall.

Carsten Kogelnik will graduate from DeMatha Catholic High School on June 7. He was captain of the basketball team, and he is the top of the 2019 class. He will be heading to Brown University in the fall, and he will play for the Bears.

Philip Manuel Macy is graduating from Walt Whitman High School and heading to Ohio State University in the fall to study bio/chem in preparation for dental school. Philip is following his dream to become a dentist, something he has desired since age 10.

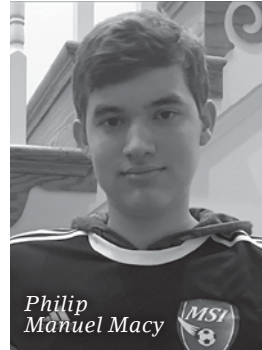
Hank Malmgren will be attending Middle Tennessee State University in the fall. He plans to major in audio production.



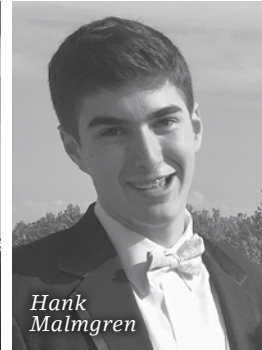
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Girl Scout community service project

fort Cases, which provides support to kids in the foster care system. The troop recently volunteered at Comfort Cases, where they assembled care packages in

the form of backpacks filled with pajamas, toiletries, books, and stuffed animals. The fundraiser will be a **disco dance and pizza party at Town Hall on June 7**. Admis-

sion will be \$5 per person or \$20 per family, and all proceeds will go to Comfort Cases. Call Corrina's mom Kristi for advance tickets at 301-260-5351.

OUR TOWN PARK

Several Town residents joined close to 300 other guests at the annual **Gala in the Park** on Saturday May 18. The evening included dinner and dancing in the Spanish Ballroom and Dentzel Carousel rides! The Gala is an annual fundraiser raising needed general operating support for the many programs offered at the Park. It also gives the Park an opportunity to recognize supporters. This year we honored Senator Chris Van Hollen for his strong advocacy of the Park during the nego-

tiation of a new ten-year agreement between the National Park Service and Montgomery County. In addition, Congressman Jamie Raskin provided supportive remarks on the operations of the Park. Rounding out the evening, County Councilmember Andrew Friedson and former first lady Catherine Leggett led a rousing Fund-A-Need event, raising \$25,000 from attendees to support the Partnership's Scholarship & Transportation Fund, which brings underprivileged kids in to experience the Park. —**MARTHA SHANNON**



Glen Echoans Martha and Joe Shannon, Kristi Maasjo and Dan Spealman, and Emily Parsons and Thom Amdur at the Gala in the Park

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

June 5, 12, 19, 26 8–10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents

June 20 5 PM, Family Movie Night, animated film *The Song of the Sea*



Local Events

June 8 11 AM–3 PM, Strawberry Festival at Church of the Redeemer

June 13 1:30 PM, *The Last Place* with author Norman Eisen, Little Falls Library, for seniors

June 26 1:30 PM, Antoine Sanfuentes discusses covering the White House, Little Falls Library, for seniors

Glen Echo Park Events

June 1 and 2 Noon–7 PM, Washington Folk Festival

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

June 6 Flower Hill String Band

June 13 Squeeze Bayou

June 20 U.S. Marine Latin Band

June 27 Ramon Gonzalez

June 7 6–8 PM, Art Walk in the Park

June 7, 14, 21, 28 11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2–5, standard entry fees apply

June 9 3–5 PM, Family Dance in the Ballroom Back Room, \$5

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

Cinderella, through June 23

Circus! June 28–August 4

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

Adventure Theater MTC

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

Cat in the Hat, June 21–August 8



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AVATAR with Neva Ingalls
Tue, Jun 04, 2019 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Restorative Workshop Series Yoga Nidra with Ashira Lavine
Sun, Jun 09, 2019 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Shamanic Self - Awareness with Christel Libiot
Fri, Jun 14, 2019 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Free Friday Lecture: Flower Essences for Emotional Balance & Clearing with Kate Lanxner
Fri, Jun 14, 2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

An Evening Yoga Practice with Ashira Lavine
Tue, Jun 4, 2019 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

Free Friday Lecture: Summer Solstice Celebration Kate Lanxner
Fri, Jun 21, 2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The Improvisation of Everyday Life with Seth Dellinger
Sat, Jun 22, 2019 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Full Foundation Training 2019-2020 with Mimi Ikle-Khalsa
Mon-Thu, Jun 24, 2019 - Jun 27 2019 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Mama Love Retreat Michelle Cohen & Elizabeth Hubley
Sat, Jun 29, 2019 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

***Consider renting the Journey Space rooms
for your next healing event.***

ONGOING CLASSES

An Evening Yoga Practice with Ashira Lavine
Tuesdays: June 4, 2019 - Dec 17, 2019
7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

Restorative Workshop Series: Yoga Nidra
with Ashira Lavine & Margarita Reyes
Sundays: Jun 09, Sept 8, Oct 27 1:00-5:00 PM

FREE LECTURE SERIES

Flower Essences for Emotional Balance & Clearing
Fri, Jun 14, 2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Summer Solstice Celebration
Fri, Jun 21, 2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

AmpCoil: A Paradigm Shift in Healing Technology
Fri, Jun 28, 2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Self-Awareness Skills For Every Day Life
Fri, Jul 12, 2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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