



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ JANUARY 2020

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The full Council, the Mayor, the Town Clerk, consultant to the Mayor Jean Sperling, and a handful of residents gathered for the Council meeting on December 9. The meeting started at 7 PM to accommodate two guest speakers: Captain Sean Gagen, the new commander of our district, and Sarah Hedlund, the archivist who has taken on Glen Echo's historical papers.

Police Report

Captain Gagen, who took over District 2 in June, began with an overview. Our district, which also includes Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Potomac, Bethesda, and North Bethesda, is 56 square miles and has the second largest population of the five districts in the County. Gagen's three goals are: improving safety, enhancing community relationships, and building community trust. Gagen said the main issue facing our district is traffic safety. We have the lowest rating in the County in terms of violent crime, and second



Captain Sean Gagen

lowest in property crime, but, as we know well, many of the County's cars come through our district each day to get to DC.

Theft from autos is another perennial issue. Council Member Stiglitz reminded everyone that it

is important to call in even minor thefts from your car, so that resources can be directed most effectively. Captain Gagen agreed and said it was important to always lock your car and keep valuables out of sight to avoid "crimes of opportunity." There were questions about front door cameras (good), package deliveries (ask shipper to hide them if possible), validity of Glen Echo no parking signs (pending), and the timeline for completion of the crosswalk at Princeton and MacArthur (pending). There was also a question about whether we could have more traffic enforcement with regards to trucks driving into and out of town on roads other than Oxford (seems possible). Residents with specific policing questions



You may discard your CHRISTMAS TREE with the regular yard waste pick up on Mondays.

should email Mr. Stiglitz at cmstiglitz@glenecho.org as he is on the police advisory board.

Town Archives

The evening's second presentation came from Sarah Hedlund, an archivist from Montgomery History who has been organizing the Town's documents. Ms. Hedlund reported that the state of the materials had been chaotic because over the years there have been several partially realized attempts at organization. Duplication of material was



Archivist Sarah Hedlund

THE ECHO

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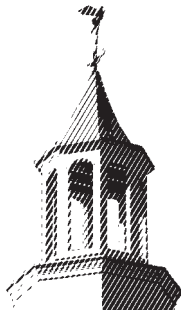
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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Next Town Council Meeting: Jan. 13, 2020, 8 PM

so extreme that what began as 88 cubic feet of content has shrunk to a manageable 20 cubic feet. That means the archives can fit easily into Town Hall.

There are two categories: 1) official Town records, which technically belong to the state and will be kept according to an approved retention schedule, and 2) historical records like Carlotta Anderson's research for her Town history, flyers from local events, and media clips. Interestingly, *The Echo* has been assigned to the first category. The cost of the archiving has been just over \$4,000, and it is nearly complete. Last to do is going through the larger items, like maps, and moving them to the new (donated from the County historical society) flat file cabinets in Town Hall.

Town Business

Lawyer Ron Bolt arrived for the discussion of new ordinances. The Council began by passing a new data security policy. It will dictate how personal information at Town Hall will be handled in order to protect things like social security numbers. The Council asked to also include in the policy computer firewalls, regular backing up of data, and timely security updates.

Ordinance 19-05 was



introduced, and a vote is expected at the next Council meeting. This pertains to permit fees for dumpsters, pods, and heavy equipment. Of note, it requires adequate covering of dumpsters. This ordinance doesn't affect people who have a new building permit.

Ordinance 19-06 tightening the requirements for accessory dwelling units (ADU), i.e., a rental property within or adjacent to a house, was raised for discussion. It has already been introduced, but it was decided that a public hearing was required to explain the implications and receive resident feedback. That meeting was set for December 16, and a report on it can be found on the opposite page.

Odds and Ends

With the meeting pushing the three-hour mark, the final items were a bit of a blur. The financial report was approved; Ms. Boa is working on an emergency plan for the Town; Ms. Boa is looking into switching the Town's bank to PNC; Ms. Boa is continuing to look into trash service providers that still recycle

glass, and she reports that several other dissatisfied municipalities will be meeting with Goode and will brief her on any updates. There was discussion about how to handle electric car charging cords running across the Town's sidewalks. The Council seemed to agree that there should be a permit and a requirement that the cord be covered with some type of rubber mat.

Council Member Wilson, head of the Livable Town committee, reported that the group would like to survey residents about interest in joining one of the local villages (groups that provide services to seniors to help them age in place). Also, February 1 has been selected as the date for a new mid-winter Town party aptly named Winterlude.



(see page 11)

Town Expenses

In December, the Town paid \$6,516 to Hughes Landscaping (leaf pickup), \$2,910 to Goode Companies, \$2,520 to Joe Toomey, \$2,473 to Bolt Legal, and \$1,221 to Mr. Omelette Caterers.

—EMILY PARSONS

On Monday, December 16, the Town of Glen Echo held a public hearing to discuss the Council's proposed ordinance on accessory dwelling units (ADUs). It was drafted in response to Montgomery County's recent revisions to County legislation that will go into effect with the new year.

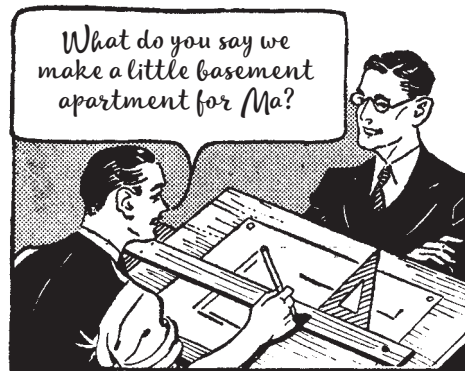
Two senior staffers from the County's Planning Department kicked off the hearing with an informative presentation explaining the County's revised ADU regulations and their three motivations for the revision: 1) to increase housing supply, 2) to allow homeowners to supplement their income, and 3) to help meet the needs of senior citizens.

The County's new rules will apply to ADUs that are either attached or detached to the main house. And though the County's restrictions make it easier for homeowners to have ADUs, there are still a number of standards governing a County-permitted ADU, including a limit of one ADU per home, specific setbacks for detached ADUs, a maximum square footage of an ADU, parking requirements, and a license to operate an ADU.

In response to the County's legislation, the

ADUS EXPLAINED

Town has proposed its own restrictions. The Town's proposed ordinance, No. 19-06, can be reviewed in full at glenecho.org. The Town's lawyer, Ron Bolt, explained to the Council Members and the dozen



residents in attendance that the Town's proposed ordinance would be stricter than the County's in several ways, including requiring a Town permit for an attached or detached ADU, two new off-street parking spaces for either type of ADU (the County would require one), stricter setbacks for a detached ADU (this would also apply to existing structures that currently don't conform to setbacks), and a Town-approved stormwater drainage plan for any off-street parking and ADU.

Overall, those in attendance expressed a lack of support for the Town's proposal and requested that the Council not go beyond

County regulations on this issue. A key point of controversy of the Town's proposed ordinance is its requirement of two additional off-street parking sites for any ADU. Other points of discussion were in relation to the proposed setbacks, stormwater drainage plans, variance restrictions, and new regulatory burdens in what some perceive as an already well-regulated environment.

The Council chose to have more time to think about the ordinance.

As such, no motion was made for a vote. Instead, the ordinance was reintroduced with several amendments that bring it more in line with the County's rules, including reducing the requirement of additional off-site parking from two spots to one. Council Member Stiglitz reintroduced the ordinance; the motion was supported by Council Members Wilson and Costello, while Council Member Spealman withheld support. The ordinance will be up for more discussion, potentially additional amendments, and a possible vote at the January 2020 Town Council meeting. —PETE EPANCHIN

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 am
Adult Education and Childcare at 9:15am
Sunday School at 10:30 am
Healing Prayers on January 19 at 10:30am
Youth Group on January 8 at 6pm.

Music at Redeemer

Isabelle Demers, Organ Showcase
January 16, 7pm (reception at 6pm)
Heimat Quartet, Beethoven at 250
February 1, 5pm (reception following)
For tickets, go to www.musicatredeemer.org

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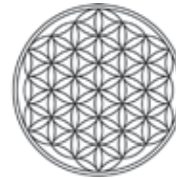
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Editor's note: To battle the winter blues, I asked Holly for her picks for some inspiring gardening books to get us thinking of the thaw, which she provided, below. And she threw in a recipe for one of her favorite cold-weather warm-ups as well. Enjoy!



A Way to Garden: A Hands-On Primer for Every

Season by Margaret Roach, Timber Press.

I highly recommend any of the work done by Margaret Roach. She has been a garden writer for 25 years including working at Martha Stewart and *Newsday* and has written three books. She hosts a public-radio podcast, which I always enjoy listening to. Check out her web site: www.awaytogarden.com *The New York Times* called the book "sensitive, wise, deliberate, thoughtful and splendidly bossy."



Grow Your Own Herbs: The 40 Best Culinary Varieties for

Home Gardens by Susan Belsinger and Arthur O. Tucker, Timber Press.

This book is written by two people who really know their subject. Susan is a culinary herbalist who has written many books, writes a great blog, lectures

HOLLY IN THE IVY

widely, and is a real grower and user of culinary herbs. Her creativity provides new ideas and inspirations on ways to use herbs. Dr. Art Tucker was (he passed away recently) considered one of the leading herb researchers writing about their chemistry, taxonomy, and much more. This duo provides a reference that is current, reliable, and a lot of fun.

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts with your Yard by Douglas

W. Tallamy, Timber Press. This highly anticipated

book will be available in February 2020. Doug Tallamy has had a huge impact on the world of gardening because of his ability to communicate about ecosystem gardening and the importance of insects in the food web. He is currently a professor in the Department of



Bringing Nature Home, was a wakeup call for many regarding invasive plants,

Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. His first book,


suburban lawns, and much more. In his words, "Our traditional view of gardening has been to treat plants as if they are merely ornaments and to ignore their ecological roles. Your garden is part of the greater landscape, and each of us is responsible for becoming a steward of our properties as a healthy contributor to the environment around us."

Chai Tea is a soothing and warming winter beverage, and I don't mean the Starbucks version. One key to goodness is making certain you have fresh ingredients.

Originally, I learned how to make masala chai (meaning spice tea) from one of my Indian workmates when I was working in Belgium. Indian chai acts as a natural aid to digestion and gives one a sense of well-being. Cinnamon is a spice that is said to have multiple health benefits including enhancing your ability to concentrate.

If you don't have time to make your own chai, try purchasing chai blends from a tea specialist. My particular favorite is Organic Cinnamon Chai Rooibos, available at David's Tea, because it has the warm, spicy cinnamon flavor combined with rooibos which does not have caffeine but does have a rich flavor. —HOLLY SHIMIZU

INDIAN CHAI TEA



INGREDIENTS:

4 cups filtered water

2 cups whole milk
(use one part milk to two parts water)

8 slightly crushed cardamom pods

2 broken/crushed cinnamon sticks


1-inch piece lightly crushed ginger

8-10 cloves

6-7 whole black peppercorns
(optional spices also include star anise, allspice, and fennel seed)

3 Tablespoons black tea, for a strong infusion

honey or sugar to taste



DIRECTIONS:

1. Combine all crushed spices, milk, and water in a medium saucepan.
2. Slowly bring to a boil, then simmer for approximately 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Reduce heat and add in black tea, let it steep for around 3 minutes. Add honey or sugar to taste.
4. Strain the warm spiced tea mixture and serve.

OUT AND ABOUT

Ring in the new decade with celebrations from across the globe. Start on January 5 with **India Day** at KID Museum in Bethesda for a full day of Indian heritage. Dance performances run from 1 to 5 PM and activities include making traditional clay oil lamps and festive bracelets. On January 25, join the Asian Community Service Center for their renowned and 13th **Chinese New Year Festival** at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church, Virginia.



This year's Chinese New Year Festival marks the Year of the Metal Rat.

This year marks the start of the year of the Metal Rat, which is considered to bring good luck and prosperity. Characteristic



dragon dances will be accompanied by food and other fun fare.

Also on January 25, join the local alumni associations of Scottish universities to honor **Burns Night** at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in DC with ceilidh. For those not in the know, ceilidh refers to traditional dancing and singing of Gaelic folk music. Whether you're a life-long Nats fan or a recently



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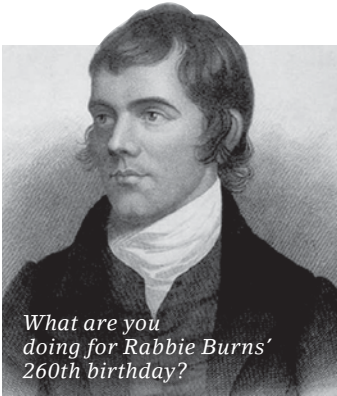
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What are you doing for Rabbin Burns' 260th birthday?

minted follower after their legendary World Series win, join other fans at the **Nationals Winterfest** on January 11 and 12. The weekend-long festival will come with opportunities to get up-close and personal with players and coaches. From trying out your swing



against a lead pitcher to photo-ops and ballpark food.

Too timid to hit the slopes this winter? Instead, watch others taking on spectacular feats of winter sports on the big screen during the 15th annual **DC Backcountry Film Festival** on January 13 at Penn Social. Continuing in this vein, for its second year, the **Wild & Scenic Film Festival** comes to DC for

a screening of a series of stunning and inspiring films on January 23 at The Miracle Theater. This event, being screened across the country, is sponsored locally by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. —MONA KISHORE



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OF ALL THINGS

THE HOBBYIST



Last winter, on Christmas day, my son and I drove 365 miles north to a town along the shores of Lake Otsego to spend two days wandering through the vaunted exhibition halls of the town's most famous attraction. Absent the teeming crowds that descend on this peaceful place in the oppressive heat of summer, the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, was a joy to meander through, viewing the bronze plaques of fabled ballplayers, "meeting" the stars of the old Negro Leagues, viewing film clips of some of the most riveting plays of the past eighty years, and revisiting the career of "Hammerin' Hank" Aaron, who obliterated the home run record of another immortal, Babe Ruth.

Walking along Main Street, we passed one of the few baseball emporiums that was open. In the window was a hand-written sign: *We have the baseball cards your mother threw away.* I have to go in here, I said to Aidan. He loves the game, not its ephemera, but nodded and understood and came inside with me.

For kids growing up back when TV was broadcast in black-and-white, and milk was still delivered in glass bottles by the milkman,

before the watershed decade of the '60s erupted to the riffs of rock 'n roll and the *rat tat tat* of small-arms fire in a place halfway around the globe that few Americans had even heard of, one of the joys of youth, at least for boys, was collecting baseball cards.

We would go to the corner candy store, a few precious silver coins jangling in our pockets, to buy a pack of Topps cards. Each pack contained a stick of pink bubble gum that infused the seven cards with an enticingly saccharine aroma. We would rip off the packaging, oh so eager to see if we got any Dodgers (they played in Brooklyn for half of the decade of the '50s then) or Giants or Yankees. (Growing up in Brooklyn, we could care less about the hapless Senators of Washington, or the struggling Red Sox up in Boston, or the carnival Cubbies of Chicago.) We were elated if we got a Mickey Mantle or a Yogi Berra, a Duke Snider or a Willie Mays or a Whitey Ford.

We'd collect cards, which



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were released in sequences as spring morphed into summer. We would trade them: I'll give you my Norm Sieburn and Andy Carey for your Stan Musial. We'd flip them: If I flipped first and my card landed on heads, you would have to flip one of your cards and land on heads to collect my card. If your card fluttered to the ground on tails, it was mine. I never knew anyone who

this passion of childhood passed. One day, when my mother on a cleaning jag, commenced to throw out my card collection, I was able to save only my '61 Yankees, when Mantle and Maris, Moose Skowron and Clete Boyer, Whitey and Yogi and Bobby Richardson, Ellie Howard and Hector Lopez were one of the best baseball teams ever assembled.

I still have those cards.

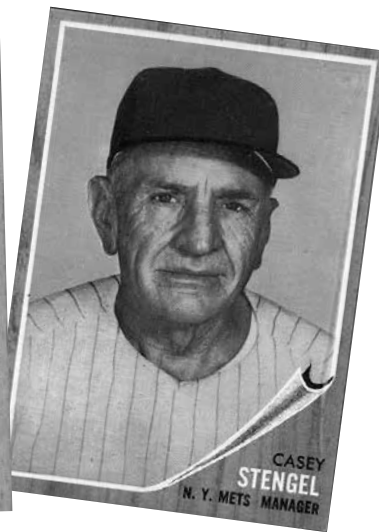
their inaugural year, when they set a record for futility that still stands, when Manager Casey Stengel's lovable band of has beens and never wases ended the season with a record of 40 wins and 120 losses.

I did not, however, limit my enthusiasm to the '62 Mets. If a card sparked a memory and wasn't outrageously expensive—don't even ask what a pristine Mantle or

eBay, I have managed to collect cards of all the original Mets ... as well as players on the team that seven years later, amazingly, won the World Series. I began to buy cards from the '50s that sparked more memories: pitcher Ted Abernathy, a "submariner" whose knuckles swept the dirt of the pitcher's mound as he threw the ball; and Johnny Logan, the shortstop for the pennant-winning Milwaukee Braves of Hank Aaron and Warren Spahn and Eddie Matthews; and Vito Valentinetti because, well, I recalled always liking his name.

In 2000, the last year of the Subway Series between the Yankees and the Mets, Aidan, who was 8, and I collected cards. We managed to assemble an almost complete set, but his interest quickly waned. Baseball cards can't compete with smart phones and video games. Me, my collecting horizons are still expanding. No bubblegum this time, but still great fun in my second childhood.

—BERNIE EDELMAN



ever collected a complete set of baseball cards. But I knew lots of kids who managed to buy, or win, enough to fill a shoebox or two.

Well, kids grow up, and

When I went into that store on Main Street in Cooperstown, I became a kid again. "I want to collect the 1962 Mets," I told Aidan, explaining that that was

Mays goes for—I wouldn't pass them up. (But also don't ask how many cards I just had to have, or what I paid for them.)

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Kaitlin and Charlie Trowbridge of 30 Wellesley Circle on their wedding day in May at Moonstone Manor in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

.....

The Echo has heard from two new **snow shovelers**, both centrally located in Town around Harvard and University. When you need a dig out, you can call William DeSilva at 301-885-9004 or Jon William McCaffrey at 202-486-3059.



.....

The Town's Environmental Committee met in December. They

HAVE YOU HEARD?

discussed long-term possibilities for the right-of-way along MacArthur Boulevard. Residents **Robin Kogelnik** and **Speke Wilson** have agreed to lead the effort to develop a plan. Committee chair **Holly Shimizu** and Town Clerk Beth Boa will be working to move forward with our certification as a Sustainable Maryland town and to join Tree City, including the establishment and Council approval of a Glen Echo Tree Ordinance. The Committee would like to thank the following residents for their generous gifts to the **Nancy Long Bird and Butterfly Garden** (misnamed here in the past as the Bee and Butterfly Garden): **Speke and Julia Wilson, Martha and Joe Shannon, George Hambrecht and Elka Deitsch, and Bernard Edelman**. Residents still interested in supporting this

effort can drop a check off at Town Hall.

.....

The birthday party options at Glen Echo Park just expanded to include an **Art Party**. Your child and up to 14 of their

friends ages 5-11 can make a clay sculpture, a mosaic, or a pop-up paper art project with an instructor. Other party activities at the Park include the Aquarium, the Puppet Theater, and Adventure Theatre.

Real Estate

The Wild Bird Centers



OUR TOWN PARK

In the early months of 2020, we look forward to the completion of work on the Dentzel Carousel. The National Park Service is managing the renovation of the roof, band organ room, and fire suppression system. In order to complete work on repainting the roof,



the NPS will be erecting a climate-controlled tent enclosure for the building. This will allow the repainting to proceed under optimal conditions. The goal is to complete the project in time to reopen the Carousel for the 2020 season starting in late April. Stay tuned for further updates!
—MARTHA SHANNON

building is still on the market, listed at \$3,250,000. But the big news is that the new home at 6006 Cornell Avenue has been unlisted:

The developer Alex Boyar and his family have moved into the house. Look for them in a future New to Town column.

GETTING TO ZERO

On December 1, Bannockburn's senior village, Neighbors Assisting Neighbors (NAN) sponsored a talk by a Bannockburn neighbor, Amy Maron, on an aspirational campaign by our county's Sierra Club chapter that would result in "zero waste." Ms. Maron is the lead for this initiative which is intended to *prevent* waste as opposed to recycling unnecessary waste.

Much of Ms. Maron's talk is detailed on an excellent webpage maintained by the Sierra Club: sierraclub.org/maryland/montgomery-county/achieving-zero-waste-montgomery-county. The information ranges from government strategies (such as eliminating the Dickerson incineration site) to very detailed suggestions for citizens

to take, individually and collectively. In addition, Ms. Maron is happy to update interested citizens on local efforts via her listserv; ask to be added by emailing her at anymaron1215@gmail.com

There was an interesting discussion about plastic bags at the meeting. Plastic is a huge problem all over, but Montgomery County is the only county in Maryland that is authorized to assess a fee on shoppers (at 5 cents each) who request a store's plastic or paper bag. Sierra Club volunteers conducted a survey of 57 local grocery stores assessing the behavior of 9,500 shoppers and found that a small percentage used reusable bags. This poor compliance argues for more stringent measures such as a tax or a ban on the use of plastic bags. —GLORIA LEVIN



THEY SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

January 12, **Nolan Koonce**, 13
 January 13, **David Chused**, 8
 January 13, **Elsbeth Chused**, 8
 January 15, **Niklas Gillberg**, 7
 January 15, **Reed Jensen**, 7
 January 15, **Riya Kishore**, 4
 January 23, **Conrad Hirsch**, 11

GOINGS ON

FEBRUARY PREVIEW:

Feb. 1 Time TBD,

GLEN ECHO WINTERLUDE!

Evening festivities on Harvard will

feature fire pits, hot dogs, baked potatoes, & s'mores. Bring a donation to light a luminary to benefit the Greentree Family Shelter in Bethesda. BYOB



Glen Echo Town Hall Events

Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 8–10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents

Jan. 22 7:30 PM, Environmental Committee Meeting

Jan. 30 7:30 PM, Emergency Preparation Presentation

Local Events

Jan. 9 1 PM, Steve Roberts discusses the 2020 election, Little Falls Library, for seniors

Jan. 22 1 PM, Paul Tukey on sustainability and the Glenstone Museum in Potomac, Little Falls Library, for seniors

Glen Echo Park Events

Through Jan. 5 Holiday Art Show and Sale

Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2–5, standard entry fees apply

Jan. 12 3–5 PM, Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom Back Room, \$5

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

Rapunzel, January 17–February 16

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

LADIES

THURSDAY,
JANUARY 23
7 PM

EMILY & MARY
PARSONS HOSTING
6001 BRYN MAWR

NIGHT

MacArthur Plaza

MacArthur Boulevard at Seven Locks Road

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