



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

## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

All the Council Members were in attendance at the January 15 meeting, along with Mayor Polak, the Town Clerk Beth Boa, the Town lawyer Ron Bolt, and three residents.

### Dumpster, Pod, Heavy Equipment Ordinance

This ordinance will regulate the use of the above and protect the Town from damage that may occur in the right-of-ways. The Council Members suggested amendments to the ordinance before passing it. Council Member Spealman wanted to make sure it was clear that the permit fee for

the use of large equipment is already covered by the new house building permit fee. Council Member Stiglitz wanted to make sure it was clear that the permit fee for a street closure that doesn't involve a bond for damage (like for a street party) be zero. It was clarified by Mr. Bolt that official Town events involving a street closure would not require any permitting. The con-

cerns raised by Mr. Spealman and Mr. Stiglitz would ultimately be addressed in the Permit Fee Schedule passed later in the evening. This ordinance (19-05) was passed unanimously.

### ADU Ordinance

Again, the Council Members offered up suggested changes before voting on Ordinance 19-06, which regulates Accessory Dwelling Units in Town. In response to resident input at the December 16 hearing discussing this ordinance, the Council had already amended it to require just one additional on-site parking space for an ADU (as opposed to two), mirroring County law. Mr. Stiglitz asked that language be added stating that an additional parking space would not be required if the property already has four on-site spots.

The Council questioned the storm water drainage



SATURDAY, FEB. 1 AT 6 PM  
*(Details on page 12)*

requirements, because they would only apply to ADUs and not similar structures like detached garages or sheds, thus unfairly targeting ADUs. They agreed to strike the language regarding storm water management from this ordinance and take it up more generally later.

With more regulation of structures on properties in Town, there will likely be more variance requests. Mr. Spealman questioned why the bar for granting a variance was being changed from demonstrates "peculiar or unusual practical difficulties" to creates "excep-



Temporary dumpsters, pods, and construction street closures will require new fees.

# THE ECHO

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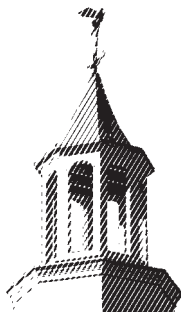
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

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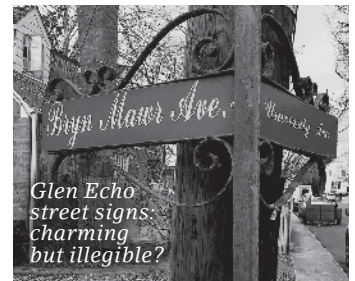
Next Town Council Meeting: Feb. 10, 2020, 8 PM

tional or undo hardship." He pointed out that just at the moment that more requests may arise, the language is getting stricter and thus tying the hands of the Council Members. There was much debate over semantics, and in the end the Council decided to keep the less stringent language in place for now. The ordinance passed unanimously.

### Permit Fee Schedule

Resident Renny Springuel proposed that the Council not offer extensions to new building permits, that if a building permit expires after a year, then the builder must apply for a whole new permit at \$4,000, triggering a square-one process of presenting sides to the Council. The Council felt that went against the ultimate shared goal of project completion but upped the fee for the extension of a building permit to 25% of the current new house fee.

The Council decided to have two different fees for pods and dumpsters



depending on if they live on private versus public property, \$75 and \$150 respectively. It was clarified that simple street closures would carry no fee, per Mr. Stiglitz. There was also some differentiation added for attached ADUs that don't add to the footprint (i.e. \$0 for putting a kitchen in your basement) versus attached ADUs that do add to the home's footprint (i.e. \$1,000 for an addition) versus a detached ADU (i.e. \$2,000 for what is essentially a small new home). With these changes, Resolution 20-2 passed unanimously.

### Odd and Ends

The Council approved the archivist Sarah Hedlund's final bill—\$300 more when the budget still allows \$3,000. They also approved the

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can be provided

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240-644-3722 (text) or [stephrhein@aol.com](mailto:stephrhein@aol.com)



budget amendments. Ms. Boa reported that the Nancy Long Bird and Butterfly Garden has received \$1,250 from residents. The Town's web expenses are under budget; Ms. Boa said that she is taking on more of that work herself. Since a recent complaint from the Glen Echo Fire Department about the illegibility of our quaint street signs, Ms. Boa has been researching replacement options. (So has Mr. Spealman, see page 4!) The Council expects a Town-wide discussion on this, so consider this a warning that it is coming once again. Ms. Boa is getting bids from waste removal companies that offer dual-stream recycling, which keeps paper separate and collects plastic, glass, and metal together. Mr. Stiglitz asked that she look into one-year cd rates as well.

### Town Expenses

In January, the Town paid \$6,496 to Hughes Landscaping, \$5,275 to Bolt Legal, and \$2,910 to Goode Companies.  
—EMILY PARSONS

**W**hen Alex Boyar and Nancy Cohen moved into their new home in December, they were both—along with daughter Eliana—thrilled to be coming to Glen Echo. But the move wasn't always a certainty. Initially, Alex wanted to move from their place in D.C. but Nancy didn't; a few months later their positions flipped. They flipped again several times before and during the construction of 6006 Cornell Avenue until finally deciding—together—to make the move.

Since their arrival, they have gotten a taste of Glen Echo's neighborly charms. "In our adult lives Alex and I have moved more times than anyone," said Nancy. "We've never moved into a home where we were welcomed so warmly." Neighbors have brought plants, food, and small gifts for Eliana.

Eliana is a seventh grader at the Lab School, which she loves. She is into hip hop and jazz

## NEW TO TOWN

dance, skiing, ice skating, and soccer. She is also enthusiastic about her robotics class, which uses a project-based curriculum developed by Carnegie Mellon University. Last summer, Eliana discovered another talent—she crushed the competition in the fishing tournament at their family camp. Perhaps



Nancy, Eliana, and Alex

a Potomac river guide of the future!

Nancy is an electrical engineer by training and started her career working in space systems and satellites. For the last 15 years, she has worked for Juniper Networks, which develops and markets networking equipment for the internet. She is

currently in technical sales, which gives her the flexibility to work from home instead of commuting to Herndon. Nancy lived abroad—in China and Israel—from 1996 to 2002. For fun, she has enjoyed flying the friendly skies doing trapeze. She even has a YouTube page to prove it.

Alex started as a CPA, then got into real estate development in 1999; he's also co-founded a tech company that devised a system to better monitor the electrical power grid—it is in several DoE trials now. His passion project shares a similar theme: He

has created an online game centered on building a smart electrical grid, using behavioral theory to better engage utilities with their customers.

The Cohen-Boyar family also includes Jewel, a tiny but highly sociable addition to Glen Echo's canine community.  
—ANGELA HIRSCH

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You may have noticed the new landscaping, traffic barrels, and warning signs at the intersection of MacArthur and the Clara Barton exit near Oberlin Avenue. Work has commenced on broadening MacArthur to add a turning lane and on installing a traffic light at this spot. These additions are projected to create significant traffic and safety improvements at an intersection that is particularly dangerous for bikers and walkers. However, the Town still has concerns about signal synchronization with the one-lane bridge, and will continue to follow up to prevent new traffic flow challenges. Expectations are that this work will not be completed any earlier than spring, and may likely continue well into summer.

On the other side of Glen Echo Park, Montgomery County has big plans ahead for Goldsboro Road. Someday we may see a complete sidewalk, along with bike lanes on both sides of the road, all the way from MacArthur to River Road. However, though it's listed as a planned project on the Montgomery County website, there must be a whole lot of planning left to do. Final design isn't expected until 2024, and the land acquisition needed to widen the road isn't slated to begin until 2026. No estimate

# AROUND TOWN

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES



*Widening of MacArthur has begun.*



*Goldsboro Road plans*

is given for when actual construction might begin.

Other changes we might see in the roads around Town include the eventual lighting of the new flashing crosswalk lights at Princeton and MacArthur. After years of determined advocacy by Council Member Stiglitz for the crosswalk, those lights only require PEPCO servicing in order to be turned on—dramatically increasing the safety of pedestrians at that important intersection for the Town. It's expected that that will take place no later

than the end of February.

And love them or hate them (it seems like people feel strongly one way or the other), Glen Echo's distinctive but aging street signs are once again being considered by the Council. While some may feel that the cursive signs add to the Town's unique character, others worry that they are almost illegible to emergency vehicles and visitors trying to find their way. If you have an opinion, write about it to [townhall@glenecho.org](mailto:townhall@glenecho.org) in advance of the next Council meeting, when the issue will likely be discussed.

One humble suggestion might be to pick a font that's easier to read, but that also expresses the special history of Glen Echo. The example shown below is in Neutraface

**BRYN MAWR Ave**

*An easy-to-read proposal for new Glen Echo street signs*

Font, which is used by the Glen Echo Partnership for Arts and Culture because it is reminiscent of the beloved neon sign at the landmark entrance to the Park. How would you feel if our street signs looked like this?

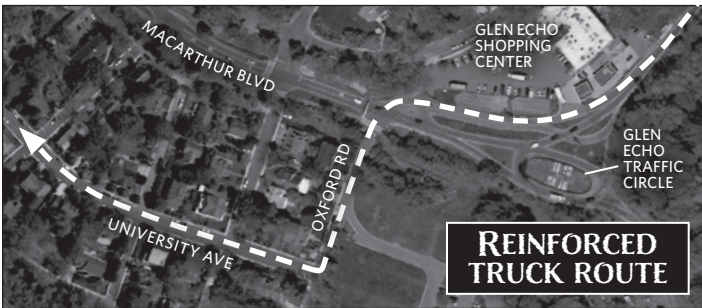
Meanwhile, the hope is that the final mill and overlay for the Vassar Circle widening will be completed when the weather warms in the spring. But that final topcoat is dependent on planned repairs by WSSC, Washington Gas, and the Town itself, which has discovered weaknesses under the road that need to be addressed first.

As the Vassar Circle project continues, some may wonder why there's so much concern about which particular route trucks take—you may have noticed the proliferation of truck route signs around Town. The reason is that there's a giant 150-year-old pipe just a few feet below the road that carries all of D.C.'s water. That wasn't a problem back in the days when MacArthur (then Conduit Road) was just a dirt road intended for engineers. Or even in the early 1900s when the Glen Echo Town Marshall enforced the 12 mph speed limit with his bicycle and pistol. But with modern large trucks and heavy construction equipment, the vulnerability of the pipe is a serious issue.

The problem



Town Marshal Charles Collins tickets a car along Conduit Road, circa 1907.



is not necessarily that a single heavy truck going over a bump could break a hole in the pipe below. (Though if that were to happen, given the volume of water involved and Glen Echo's position downhill of the conduit, the Town streets would make lovely waterfalls.) It's more that if we aren't vigilant and heavy trucks do roam unrestricted on MacArthur, the wear and tear over time would eventually weaken the pipe to the point that it would be vulnerable to such an event.

That's why there is that strange second route as you come down Goldsboro towards Town. You can head straight to MacArthur and turn right at the circle, or you can veer right at the Exxon, go past the Farmer's Market, and come out near the Episcopal Church. That second, seemingly

unnecessary routing is actually very necessary. It was designed as a reinforced truck crossing that would allow heavy vehicles to safely enter Glen Echo without endangering the conduit below. Other such crossings exist at Brookmont and the Old Angler's Inn. Many of the Town's streets also have their own vulnerabilities. For example, a crushed pipe under the road at Cornell and MacArthur has caused the right-of-way to flood in the past. And so, the only proper way into Town for heavy vehicles is the route pictured below.

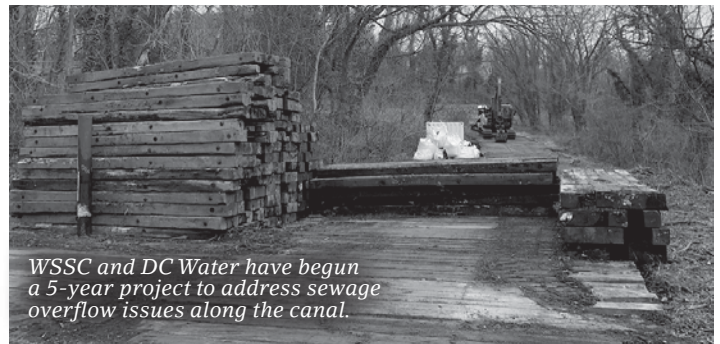
The General Manager of the Washington Aqueduct says that "when people understand what it is and its limitations, they always rise to the occasion and help." He recommends that residents call the

Montgomery County Police Department non-emergency number (301-279-8000) if they see a violation. If residents, the County police (who occasionally patrol just for that purpose), and responsible businesses work together with the Army Corps of Engineers who continually inspect, repair, and maintain the aqueduct, it can serve D.C. for another 150 years.

And one last update for the walkers and bikers who love the towpath, since the roads aren't the only ways to get about. Down

sewage pipe, and eventually strengthen and rehabilitate it. Surprisingly, that pipe, dubbed the Potomac Interceptor, carries sewage all the way from Dulles Airport to the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment plant at the far southern tip of D.C. Together all the projects are likely to take more than five years, but the C&O Canal National Historical Park has agreed with the agencies that they will ensure pedestrian access to the towpath throughout.

Similarly, as the American Legion bridge is replaced and substantially



WSSC and DC Water have begun a 5-year project to address sewage overflow issues along the canal.

on the canal, you may have noticed a significant project happening at the end of the path from the one-lane bridge. According to the Park Service, that's a joint project of WSSC and DC Water to do a substantial number of repairs, starting with the construction of an access road. With the increasing rains and flooding we've seen in the area, there have been several occasions when there's been an overflow of sewage at that point. The plan is to correct that situation, as well as to cover an exposed

expanded, the Park has secured commitments that a protective tunnel will be built over the canal where it crosses under 495 so that we can continue to enjoy the use of the towpath, even when construction is under way. If all goes according to plan, the project to replace and widen the bridge from 8 to 12 lanes is expected to start in 2022 and take 5 to 6 years. Supposedly, it will also add a pedestrian and bike lane across the bridge that will tie into the towpath, in the process. —DAN SPEALMAN



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In recent years, Martha and I have ventured off to another European city in the fall for a museum conference which she helped organize. This time we went to a new country: Hungary! We have been all over Europe but never in that area. So, as always, we did a lot of research. Like many

small countries, Hungary has experienced a historic tangle of ups and downs. Now things are mostly stable, and Budapest gets many good reviews. So, we went! Once a town divided—Buda on one side of the Danube River and Pest on the other—Budapest is now unified.

All the people we encountered were wonderful and helpful. The conference, in the newly restored Museum of Fine Arts, was grand and lovely! I got to see a rare show of one of my heroes and favorite masters: Peter Paul Rubens! Some of my favorite works,

## GLEN ECHOANS ABROAD



as well as paintings I had never before seen. Great!

At the conference, Martha as usual gave an



opening address on the best practices of building museums. Most of the speakers, from museums

all over the world, were engaging and enlightening. Budapest is the site of the largest current cultural building project in Europe. The Liget Park will house at least five new museums. Wow! This major initiative could be completed in five years. It includes a zoo, a biodome, and, of course, the restorative baths. It will feature a new National Gallery

of Art, a Museum of Hungarian Music, a Museum of Ethnology, and more—a Hungarian “Smithsonian!”

The city was delightful and easy to walk, and we discovered great shops and craft markets, as well as wonderful restaurants. We loved the meals,

having Goulash every day! Right outside our hotel was a gigantic Ferris wheel in a lovely garden square.

Wandering the city and along the riverfront was great. We stayed on the Pest side but ventured over the Chain Bridge to Buda and its famous hilltop castle. It took about 30 minutes to walk to the top! The wonderful thing about Budapest is that so many buildings survived the destruction of 20th century wars. It was one of the most engaging visits we have had in all of Europe. We highly recommend it. Go!

—JOE SHANNON

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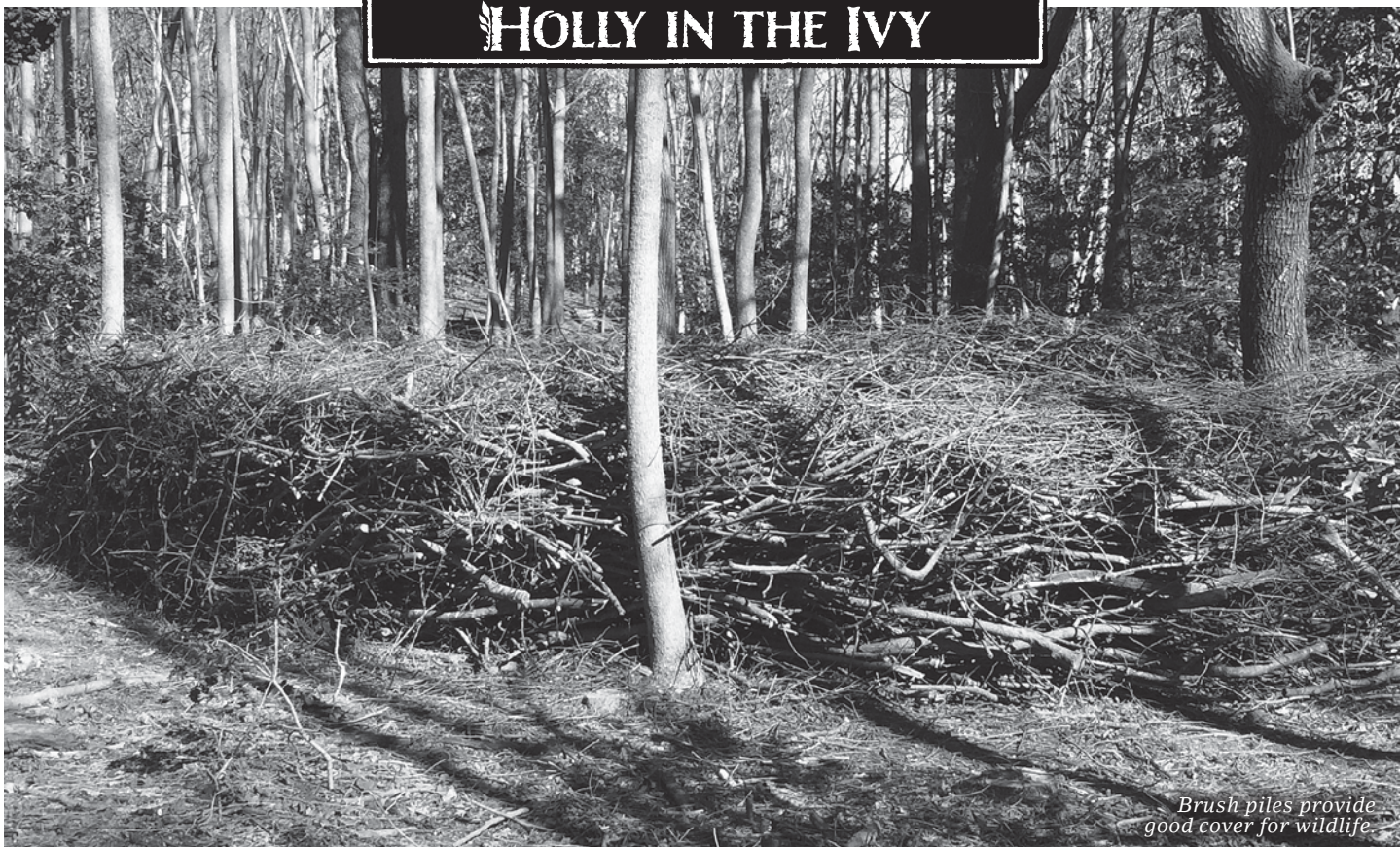
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## HOLLY IN THE IVY



*Brush piles provide good cover for wildlife.*

**D**o you want to make a commitment to healthy gardening practices for people, wildlife, and the environment? You can do so by having your garden certified as a wildlife habitat. Then watch your garden come to life with buzzing, chirping, humming, and natural beauty. The best national garden certification program is done by The National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat. This certification allows home gardeners to be involved in conservation of our natural resources. It is also a fantastic way for children to become interested in outdoor activities. For many years, there has been a focus on having a

perfect lawn and an immaculate garden—neither of which entices wildlife to visit. A certified wildlife habitat does not mean your garden has to be messy or unattractive. This certification means that you have chosen to share your space with wildlife and that you are sensitive to your local

ecology. In fact, you will be making thoughtful choices.

Possible certification spaces include school grounds, entire neighborhoods, and places of worship, as well as home gardens. The city of Austin, Texas, is certified! The first step is to pay a \$20 fee to apply for certification. Once certified,

the garden receives a plaque to denote its official designation as a certified habitat. To qualify there are five areas of focus: water, food, cover, places to raise young, and sustainable practices.

Clean water is essential for the following wildlife needs: bathing, drinking, breeding and egg-laying,



*A birdbath makes a good water source, but be sure to clean it regularly.*



*This Monarch caterpillar is feeding on garden fennel.*

finding food, and raising young. A birdbath is ample as long as the water is changed regularly, a small garden pond works well or an upside-down trash can

top filled with water and some rocks. Water invites frogs, salamanders, dragonflies, hummingbirds, butterflies, and lightning bugs. Butterflies drink from

puddles while frogs, toads, dragonflies, and damselflies lay their eggs in water. Allow plants around the water feature, such as ferns, to grow without pruning and leave

fallen leaves as a source of protection and additional habitat.

Food for wildlife happens naturally when native plants are used. Their berries, nuts, seeds, nectar, pollen, and insects will fulfill the animals' needs. For example, hum-

mingbirds love the nectar on flowers but they also eat gnats, mosquitoes, thrips, and spiders. Leaving dead trees and fallen branches is a great way to attract insects that wildlife will feast on. Supplementing with feeders is also a good idea.

Creating cover provides wildlife with much-needed shelter during extreme weather conditions such as heavy rain, snow, or heat. In order to achieve cover, you need dense shrubs or thickets, brush piles, rock piles, or the creation of an insect hotel (I wrote about how to make them in a previous article). I have a friend who created a hibernaculum using stone as a place of refuge that creatures seek out

during severe weather conditions. A dry stone wall also provides excellent cover.

Favorite places to raise young are often mature trees, dead trees, shrubs, or even nesting boxes. Remember to provide nesting materials by not pruning back too hard in the fall. For example, it is important to protect fledgling birds from cats and other predators. Butterfly larvae need to eat plants such as milkweed, parsley, fennel, and dill, so grow plenty of these plants.

Using sustainable gardening practices means that no toxic pesticides or chemical fertilizers can be used. Add compost to build up your soil. Removal of invasive plants, such as English ivy, will provide room for native plants, which are essential for wildlife to thrive. Delay deadheading on plants so that wildlife can eat the seeds. Promote diversity in your garden by planting a variety of native and non-invasive plants.

I hope you will decide to transform your garden into a sanctuary. Your outdoor space will be filled with abundant life for your family to enjoy! —HOLLY SHIMIZU



### Resources:

[www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/certify](http://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/certify)

[www.aswp.org/pages/backyard-habitat-program](http://www.aswp.org/pages/backyard-habitat-program)

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/providing-water-in-your-habitat-at-home-1.pdf](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/providing-water-in-your-habitat-at-home-1.pdf)



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# TABLE FOR TWO

You likely live in a bubble if you have missed the large and high-end North Bethesda mixed development complex Pike+Rose that has arisen off Rockville Pike. Big box brands have been creeping in over the course of the last couple years. In addition, some local names like Strathmore's sit-down and dining music venue called AMP have also made their way in.

Most recently, towards the entrance off Towne Road, a new Asian inspired food hall called The Block opened in late November. Its opening unveiled a smattering of vendors, some known



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and some completely unique to the space. One standout is Pokeworks, a Hawaiian poke bowl chain originating from the greater Los Angeles metro area which has recently caught fire across the DMV.

Across the sleek design (with bombastic background music), roughly five establishments have set up—two catering to your sweet tooth. It's unclear whether these vendors will be rotating out in a pop-up fashion or staying put. Either

way, they are all worth a visit. Some highlights include the umami packed corn pizza that can be made Gangnam style, or the matcha mock Twinkies at the one-of-its kind Rose Avenue Bakery. Personal favorites of my kids include Snocream's ube ice cream—a flavor commonly encountered in Filipino fare, most easily described as a purple yam. Top it with mochi and you have a perfect and, in my opinion, not totally unhealthy sundae.

—MONA KISHORE

.....  
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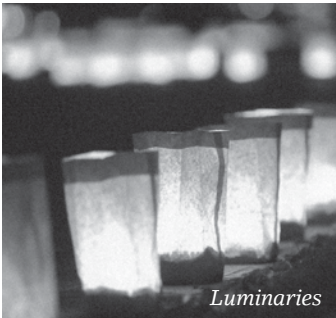
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Luminaries

The Town's Livable Community (née Livable Town) Committee is planning an evening of warmth, light, and conviviality to break up these long winter months. Please join your neighbors at Glen Echo's first **Winterlude celebration** on February 1, starting at 6 PM. We will light

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

up upper Harvard Avenue with luminaries; we'll gather around fire pits and enjoy hotdogs, baked potatoes, s'mores, and hot drinks. Feel free to bring anything stronger for yourself or to share with friends. To extend the warmth to our broader community, we'll be collecting cash donations for the Greentree Shelter. Bring cash or send via Paypal to Council Member **Dan Spealman** in advance, and you can light some luminaries of your own.

If you have a dog, you've probably noticed that the **trash receptacle** at the top of the canal access trail by the one-lane bridge has disappeared. A little sleuthing by former resident **Mickie Simpson** found that the National Park Service (NPS) discovered that the can wasn't on Park land, but on land owned by the Department of Transportation. NPS moved the can to the nearest Park land, which is just on the other end of the one-lane

bridge, not very convenient for hikers coming off the trail or for Glen Echo dog walkers.

It's **Town Directory** time! Residents **Patty Sieber**, **Alec Graham**, and **Mary Parsons** will be working to update the 2017 edition. If you were not included in that edition or if you have an update to your entry, please email Patty at sieber.patty@gmail.com with your information. Each entry can accommodate one email and one phone number, but each



## OUR TOWN PARK

Exhibitions at the Park change on a regular basis. Park staff work with board members, outside curators, and artists to select these exhibitions. On view currently and through mid-February are three really interesting shows.

Fran Abrams creates her paintings and sculptures out of colored polymer clay which she mixes in her pasta maker. How do the smaller clay items get finished? In her toaster oven of course! Go see these cool and beautiful creations in the Park View Gallery Monday through Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM.

In the Popcorn Gallery, you will find art works by artists Jessica Beels, Ellen



Kennedy, and Saarialiisa Ylitalo, who work exclusively with paper. The show "Paper Complex" features works that are delicate, bold, colorful, and fun. See these on the weekends 12 to 6 PM.

In the Stone Tower, you will find a fried egg on the floor and, yes, you may lie on it and take selfies (after taking off your shoes). Washington sculptor Akemi Maegawahas created this piece along with several others on the theme "Food

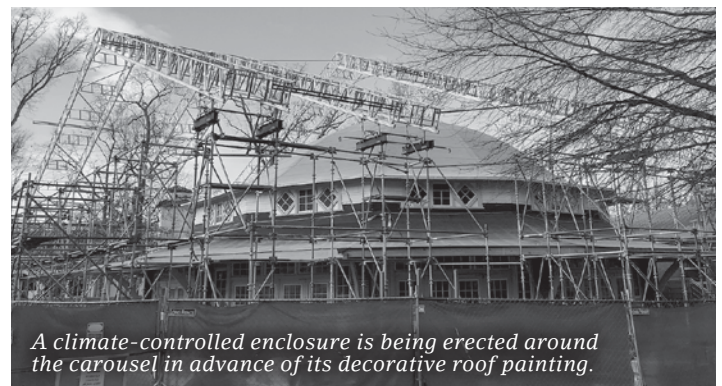
for Thought." See these provocative works on Saturdays and Sundays through February 15.

The National Park Service has resumed work on the Carousel roof

project after a contracting delay. They are building a climate-controlled enclosure, or tent, to protect the carousel structure.

Painting of the roof will be completed by the middle of April according to Park Service officials. In May, the Park will kick off the Year of the Carousel to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Carousel Day is Saturday, May 2. There will be a variety of special events throughout the year. In particular, the "Carousel Carnival" Gala will be on May 16. Stay tuned for more details.

—MARTHA SHANNON



A climate-controlled enclosure is being erected around the carousel in advance of its decorative roof painting.

adult member of a household is listed separately.

.....

The Environmental Committee is working on a **tree ordinance** to present to the Council at the February 10 Town Council meeting. The tree ordinance is needed so that Glen Echo can become a Tree



City, one requirement for the Sustainable Maryland Certification.

County Executive Marc Elrich and the County Department of Environmental Protection are leading the **Salt-Wise Campaign**, an initiative to encourage homeowners to use less salt on sidewalks and driveways during winter storms. The basics: shovel right away, 12 ounces of salt can melt 10 sidewalk squares, sweep up and reuse the remaining salt after a snow.

**Real Estate**

6102 Bryn Mawr Avenue was listed last month at \$910,000, and after one open house, went under contract. The Wild Bird Centers building is still on the market for \$3,250,000. And we hear rumors that 22 Wellesley Circle, formerly the rented home of Dave and Mickie Simpson, is expected to go on sale in the near future.

They Say it's Your **BIRTHDAY!**  
 Feb. 4, **Siena Belinkie**, 6  
 Feb. 15, **Rafe Parsons Amdur**, 8

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**GOINGS ON**

**Glen Echo Town Hall Events**

**Feb. 1** 6 PM, **GLEN ECHO WINTERLUDE!**

Join your neighbors for a winter festival of light.

**Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26** 8-10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents

**Feb. 29** 9:30 AM, CPR training, contact townhall@glenecho.org to sign up, \$60 per person

**Local Events**

**Feb 13** 1 PM, Jane Kerschner discusses wise aging, Little Falls Library, for seniors

**Feb. 23** 4-6 PM, Screening of documentary *Hometown Habitat* and a discussion about rainscapes at the Clara Barton Community Center

**Feb. 26** 1 PM, discussion with historic conservator Connie Stromberg, Little Falls Library, for seniors

**Feb. 28** 7-9 PM, Family Bingo Night at the Clara Barton Center



**Glen Echo Park Events**

**Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28** 11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2-5, standard entry fees apply

**Feb. 9** 3-5 PM, Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom Back Room, \$5

**The Puppet Co.** www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380  
**Rapunzel**, through February 16

**Beauty and the Beast**, Feb. 21-Mar. 29

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

**Adventure Theater MTC**

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

**The Snowy Day and Other Stories**, Feb. 14-Apr. 5

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