



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The June 8 Council Meeting, held virtually via Zoom, included Mayor Polak, Town Clerk Beth Boa, Town engineer Joe Toomey, consultant-to-the-Mayor Jean Sperling, the four Council Members, and about a half dozen residents. Town lawyer Ron Bolt dialed in mid-call.

Meeting Protocols

The agenda for the evening's meeting gave time for resident comments at the beginning and end of the meeting. At a previous Council meeting, the Mayor had clarified that those comments would be limited to two minutes. The first comment of the evening came from resident Renny Springuel who was unhappy with the current parking (or rather lack of parking) on Vassar Circle and also unhappy that his comments would be constrained by time limits. Council Member Spealman concurred that he thought limiting resident comments to only at the beginning

and end stifled the natural back and forth that often occurs between the Council and residents who attend the meetings. The Mayor suggested that residents could sign up in advance of the meetings if they plan to speak on a topic. Likewise, if residents want to introduce a new issue for discussion, it could be added to the agenda prior to the meeting. The Council agreed that individuals' speaking times could get a limit, though more than two minutes, but that total discussion time on a topic should not be limited. Several Members also pointed out that while these restrictions might make virtual meetings more

manageable, they also might not make sense once the meetings resume in Town Hall. Mayor Polak said he and Ms. Boa would work on an outline for the meeting protocols with the Council's feedback in mind.

Parking on Vassar Circle

The Council addressed Mr. Springuel's other concern next. It turns out that, while confusing, the signs and loss of spaces on Vassar Circle adhere to the plan signed off on by the Council in 2016. Consultant Joe Cutro assessed the circle and intersecting streets and created a new proposal that now awaits the Council's approval. It would then need a green light from the Fire Marshal (who is open to changes that work better for the Town).

The signs are so limiting because the area on the outer part of the circle is a designated fire lane, hence

the arrows in both directions and the hefty fee. The Town's proposal will eliminate that designation, replace the signs (and have fewer of them), and reclaim several parking spots. The inner curb of the circle wasn't meant to be painted yellow, but that will most likely be left as is.

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★ **OUR ANNUAL**
★ **JULY 4TH PARADE**
★ *has been cancelled due to*
★ *COVID, but the organizers*
★ *suggest that at 7 PM residents*
★ *come out to porches or stroll*
★ *the Town's streets to raise a*
★ *glass while safely mingling*
★ *with neighbors.*



THE ECHO

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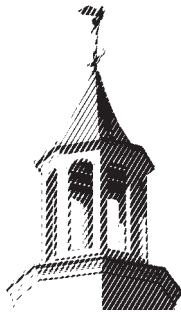
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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Next (Virtual) Council Meeting: July 13, 2020, 7 PM

A heated moment ensued when Mr. Springuel reiterated his complaint about the parking. Council Member Stiglitz told him that his complaints had been heard repeatedly by everyone on the Council and now it was time for him to let them all take the time needed to correct the situation. When Mr. Springuel said there should have been more oversight in 2016 when the plan was approved, Mr. Stiglitz replied that this was surprising considering Mr. Springuel's other main complaint is that the Town is now spending too much on consultants. Mr. Springuel responded that he retracted that position.

Water Management Ordinance

An earlier draft of the agenda included the introduction of Ordinance 20-05, which would add building requirements for stormwater and sump pump drainage. It was not introduced at the June meeting, but it was

discussed. Mr. Toomey gave an overview: homes often have sump pumps to manage excess water on the property; the County does require *that* management, but it doesn't specify where the water is to be discharged; it could go on the streets or an adjacent property. This ordinance would require that the sump pump discharge, as well as any other stormwater collecting on the property, remain on the property. It can go into a dry well or a rain garden, but it can't flow to public streets, for example, where it could freeze and become a hazard.

When Mr. Spealman questioned the necessity of this ordinance, Mr. Toomey gave two examples in town in the past year where he asked for a builder to account for the water runoff and changes were made to keep it on the property. Mr. Spealman still questioned why this would need to be added to the permitting process when just asking the builders to handle it seemed effective. Mr. Toomey added

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that it won't just affect new home construction, but new impervious structures like patios as well. Mr. Bolt, now on the call, explained that the ordinance will make owners responsible if their old sump pump is pumping onto the right-of-way and damage is done. The current plans for the four houses on Vassar Circle are already in compliance. Mr. Spealman said he appreciated having time to discuss a proposed ordinance before it is formally introduced and further suggested that the

agreed that we should wait. New cleaning protocols and expense will need to be considered once Town Hall does reopen, but the Council Members didn't feel it warranted a full discussion yet. They also all agreed that the summer picnic will most likely be postponed and that if it does occur this summer, a lower key, non-meal gathering would be all right.

Resident Pete Epanchin asked that the Town consider making a statement condemning

violence and racism against African Americans and other people of color in light of recent events. The Council agreed that this was something the Town should do, but Council

Member Costello wanted some time to get feedback on Mr. Epanchin's proposed statement. The Town's statement, which will appear on the website as well, can be found on page 7.

Town Expenses

In June, the Town paid \$8,750 to A.B. Viers, \$5,543 to Bolt Legal, \$3,200 to Key Sanitations, \$1,792 to Joe Cutro, \$1,655 to Joseph Toomey Associates, and \$1,330 to Julia Sparacino.

—EMILY PARSONS



This rain garden at 4 Vassar Circle puts the new house in compliance with Montgomery County as well as a proposed Town water management ordinance.

Mayor could run ideas by the Council before having the lawyer or engineer spend any time on them. Mayor Polak said that Ms. Boa could begin sending the Council weekly emails outlining what they are working on.

Odd and Ends

Ms. Boa hopes to reopen Town Hall when the County opens rec centers. She asked the Council if there was any reason to allow for rentals sooner rather than later, and everyone

NEW TO TOWN



Griffin Finan and Bray Hill knew 22 Wellesley was the right home for them: They wanted manageable commutes, a fenced yard, and space for a growing family. The house was on the market for only a few hours when they put in their offer.

With its spacious yard and fresh renovations, the house was easy to fall in love with. But coming as they did from a one-bedroom condo, which had been doing double duty as a dual home office for several weeks, their new home is even sweeter. Their dog Biscuit is also enjoying the extra space to explore.

After dating for five years, Bray and Griffin have packed a lot of excitement into the past year. They married in September in Washington, DC, and honeymooned afterwards in Italy, visiting Rome and the Amalfi Coast. Now they are expecting their first child in November.

Griffin grew up nearby in Bethesda, attending

Westbrook Elementary and St. John's College High School. His mom still lives in Westmoreland Hills. He is an attorney for a sports betting company, doing regulatory and lobbying work for its fantasy sports leagues. Unlike most of us, he is accustomed to the work-from-home lifestyle. He has been teleworking for his Boston-based firm for years. Bray works for the Advisory Board Company, a consulting firm focused on the health care industry.

The pair, both avid baseball fans, met while working part-time jobs at Nationals Stadium. Last year's championship season was, of course, another highlight of their big year. When the Nats played their wildcard game against the Brewers, Griffin and Bray were in Italy, nearing the end of their honeymoon. They stayed up all night to watch the game—celebrating the Nats' win and an eventful year to come. —ANGELA HIRSCH

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Even though summers tend to be hot and muggy, it's important to find time to work in your garden. Your effort will help keep up with maintenance, and your plants will appreciate the care. The following list is one that I try to adhere to during the summer months.

.....

- ☛ Always wear a wide brimmed hat and sunblock.
- ☛ It's best to work in the mornings or evenings.
- ☛ Water during dry periods, preferably in the morning. Deep watering is important as it is more beneficial than frequent shallow watering. Water newly planted or transplanted plants well and often. Note: Summer is not the time to transplant and move plants around because of heat stress and dry conditions.
- ☛ Do a lot of cutting back, starting with dead or diseased growth. If certain plants provide seed or habitat for wildlife, then leave them alone. These might include cone

HOLLY IN THE IVY

HOLLY'S SUMMER GARDENING CHECKLIST

- flowers (*Echinacea*), Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium*), sunflowers (*Helianthus*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), and beebalm (*Monarda*).
- ☛ Dead head plants that rebloom such as catmint (*Nepeta*), pinks (*Dianthus*), lavender (*Lavandula*), and reblooming roses.
- ☛ Cut back fall blooming plants by about 50% so that they will not flop and require staking—this includes chrysanthemums, asters, and toad lilies. Don't cut after early July or you will remove the flower buds.
- ☛ Cut back and harvest herbs. Italian basil should not be allowed to flower during summer since it is the leaves we want to eat. The flowering takes energy away from the leaf's delicious flavor.
- ☛ Stay ahead of the



- weeds so they do not seed. As a result, it will be less of a chore in the long run.
- ☛ If you use mulch to help keep in moisture and suppress weeds, try using small wood chips (sometimes called Pine Fines), compost, or pine needles.
- ☛ If you have a lawn, do not mow it too short. This can cause burning which encourages weeds.
- ☛ Check climbing plants

to see if they need training or cutting back.

- ☛ Sow seeds of late summer/fall vegetables and herbs in late July. These include broccoli, cauliflower, turnip, cilantro, parsley, and chervil.
- ☛ Collect seeds from plants you intend to grow from seed next year or spread them in the place in the garden where you want them to grow—make sure to place a label there. I do this with annual and biennial flowers and herbs including opium poppies, larkspur, foxglove, sweet chamomile, calendula, dill, fennel, and chervil.
- ☛ Constantly check your garden for any standing water to keep mosquitoes from breeding. Be sure to dump out any standing water immediately. If the water will remain standing (in a bird bath, for example), then add Mosquito Dunks into the water. They contain a biological control for mosquito larvae that is harmless to birds, fish, wildlife, and pets. —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**

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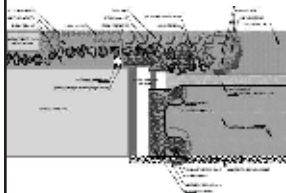
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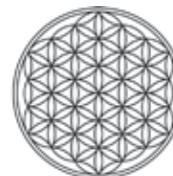
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BLACK LIVES MATTER



On June 6, the neighborhood turned out for a Black Lives Matter demonstration along MacArthur Boulevard.



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The Town of Glen Echo

condemns violence and racism towards black people and all people of color; we stand in solidarity with those who peacefully and persistently protest and fight against systemic racism and injustice.

The history of our country reflects that we must now and must always uplift voices that have been silenced and use positions of authority to expose not just covert acts of bias but also racism within our country and its institutions. We deeply believe in creating a world of equality, justice and fairness. The Town of Glen Echo is committed to being a safe, inclusive and welcoming community.



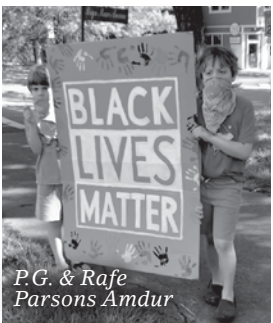
Colby, Pete, Becky, ARIZO & Lara T Epanchin



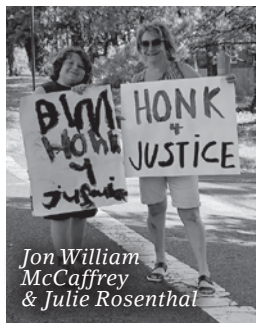
Kristi Maasjo, Corrina & Dan Spealman



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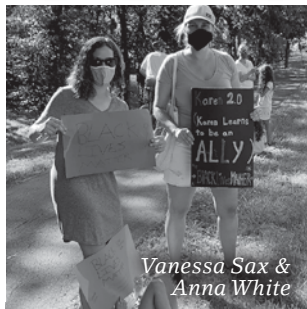


Alya, Mona, Ayan & Riya Kishore & friends



Aaron, Conrad, & Greta Hirsch

Manoé & Cléo Moreau



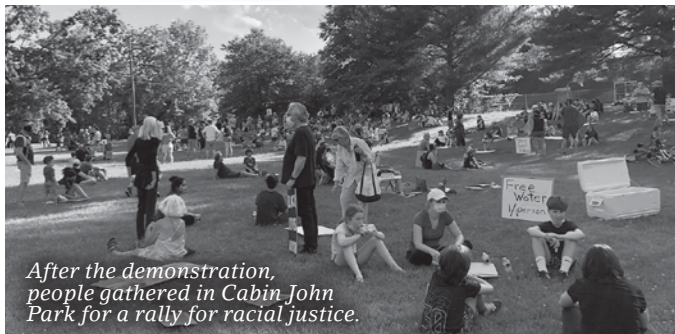
Vanessa Sax & Anna White



Diana Hudson-Taylor



Dawn Tanner & Emily Siegel



After the demonstration, people gathered in Cabin John Park for a rally for racial justice.



Rep. Jamie Raskin spoke

The Park continues to move forward with planning for reopening in line with County regulations. Phase 2 now allows us to offer limited in-person classes (check with the resident arts programs). We also anticipate opening the playground with certain restrictions. The Park remains closed overnight to assure security of the buildings and grounds.

Fortunately, GEPPAC and its resident program providers continue to offer online classes and other programs. Adventure Theater has launched Sunday Story Time on Facebook Live and is planning a playwriting festival. Washington

OUR TOWN PARK

Conservatory is hosting online concerts over the summer. Our popular free summer concerts will now be streamed via Facebook Live every Thursday at 7:30pm from June 25 through August 27. Visit the StayConnected page on our website to see a full listing of online programs.

Many new virtual camps for kids are being offered. Beyond the virtual, our education staff have developed a new idea for a public art program with the theme of Togetherness. A call has gone out for artwork created by children and

teens ages 3 to 16. This will be an outdoor art display. Apply by July 5. The show will open on July 11. For more information contact Gallery@glenechopark.org.

We are pleased to present Moving Forward, a new online exhibition featuring artists from around the world. Juried by African American curator, writer, and artist Zoma Wallace, the exhibition "pushes forward into new digital spaces to amplify plural artistic voices." The theme of the exhibition explores the artists' responses to the current pandemic.

Another program being developed is an online retail store that will allow us to showcase art works and other items for sale. This will be up and running later this summer. We will not be having the Labor Day Art Show this year.

You may recall, the Dentzel Carousel was vandalized in April of this year. The National Park Service will soon begin repairing the damage, and the work should be completed in the next few months.

An effort is underway to collect new ideas for programs or improvements at the Park. Stay tuned for a public call for ideas. —MARTHA SHANNON



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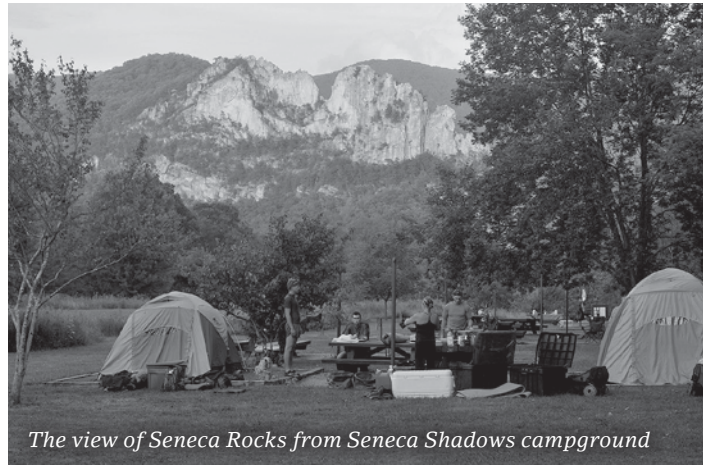
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OUT AND ABOUT

STATE-CATIONS!

Staying within the state or just a few hours drive from home is a reassuring way of getting back into travel while having more control over your plans and crowd sizes (whether that means hitting a campground or staying at a small hotel). As many of us are newly discovering and planning for road-based vacations to stay close to home this summer, here are a few of my favorites to lift your wanderlust spirits.

For panoramic views along Skyline Drive, head to **Shenandoah National Park** which has officially entered Phase 2 of its re-opening with most amenities once again available. Within the park premises, both Skyland Lodge and Big Meadows Lodge offer cabins and rooms for those looking to have a bit more comfort with their experience. Campgrounds



The view of Seneca Rocks from Seneca Shadows campground

and backcountry camping are also available. Most lookout points allow enough of an expanse that you can admire the scenery right from your car window. While there are many trails to choose from, note that some may get quite busy and crowded especially on national holidays and weekends.

Head north of Shenandoah, into West Virginia, to **Seneca Rocks** within the **Monongahela National Forest** for one of my favorite campgrounds with epic views. It also happens to be one of the best spots

in the east if you're an avid rock climber. For families or friends coming together, the park has group lots that can easily accommodate twenty—or simply a single family with plenty of room to spread out. Small businesses selling local wares and watering holes along the south branch of the Potomac River abound.

For those of you looking for an urban escape with a lower profile, check out Frederick's pedestrian paths at **Carroll Creek Park**. Duck into shops or dine by the creek at one of the many restaurants.

About half an hour north of Frederick is **Owens Creek Campground** with 25 miles of trails—another often overlooked gem.

Have you yet heard of **Richmond's** now famous **Beer Trail**? In 2018, it was named the #1 beer destination in the world (Step aside, Munich!). As the trail has grown in popularity, quaint shops and dineries have sprung up nearby, making it easy to fill up a whole weekend of exploring.

If you're looking for a two-fer, head to **Assateague Island** for both beach and roaming horses. While it's almost impossible to snag a camp spot within the official Assateague State Park, we have found luck at quieter and less mosquito-infested **Janes Island State Park** not too far from the Atlantic coast.

Whether you're hiking, biking, swimming, or sailing, stay safe and buy local all the way! —MONA KISHORE



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HAVE YOU HEARD?



The **new bench**—a gift from **Speke** and **Julia Wilson** of University Avenue—has been installed at the Nancy Long Bird and Butterfly Garden. Donations for the garden are still being accepted, and any received by September 1 will be listed on a plaque yet to be ordered. If you would like to give, drop off a check at Town Hall. There will be a dedication ceremony at some point in the future.

is actually a **food option** right here in Glen Echo as well. On Wellesley Circle, baker **Lucy Bermudez** is still filling orders for her delicious breads, pastries, cakes, and tarts. Her website is www.akaruibakery.com. Last year, she had hoped to open up a storefront over in Cabin John, but that didn't end up happening.



*Lucy's
French macarons*

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We've been getting regular reminders to order meals from local restaurants and hit up food trucks in the area, but there

Rhein Tutoring

ONLINE LESSONS
FOR FRENCH AND PIANO

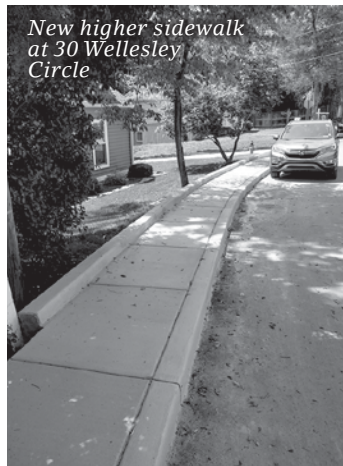


References
can be provided



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240-644-3722 (text) or stephrhein@aol.com

Lucy reports that she is especially busy these days, thanks to her mother **Cristina's** growing catering business. The information is under the catering tab on their website. Lucy writes: "Cristina offers catering for special events and planned weekly family meals. Every week, she sends out an email chain to all of her customers with that week's menu and they can decide how many days and how much food they would like to order for the week. Most of our clients are families who have kids as well as college students back home during the pandemic and are struggling to balance their new schedule with feeding the extra mouths. All of her family meals are based on convenience—she cooks everything fresh and does deliveries twice a day, once for lunch, and once for dinner. She also accounts for any dietary restrictions."



flooded basements along that road. The bid by A.B. Veirs & Sons included the price of \$8,750 for the concrete sidewalk work; this amount has been paid. The proposal also contained \$6,300 for asphalt repair in front of the curb. In the end, this was not needed, as the old concrete was removed without damaging the asphalt roadway surface.

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The next **Zoom Ladies Night** will be Wednesday, July 22 at 8 PM.

Real Estate Report

22 Wellesley Circle closed last month at \$1,295,000. 4 Vassar Circle is still listed at \$1,449,000, and 7370 MacArthur Boulevard (The Wild Bird Centers building) remains on the market with an asking price of \$3,250,000.

New **higher sidewalks** have been installed along the bottom of Wellesley Circle. After gas lines were installed six years ago, the repaved road was nearly flush with the sidewalk, which was contributing to some

GLEN ECHO PHARMACY

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Wild Bird Centers

Proudly based in Glen Echo since 1996
Please visit us online at www.wildbird.com

Eleanor Balaban
MacArthur Blvd. Corridor Specialist
Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.
Main: 301-907-7600 Direct: 301-215-6875
www.EleanorBalaban.com

"Let's talk about real estate along MacArthur Blvd."

On the Market!

4 VASSAR CIRCLE, the first of four custom homes in Glen Echo, is completed.

Look for the listing and open house dates. Every design detail has been painstakingly considered, from the house number and door bell to room layouts and more. Excellent workmanship is backed by a warranty. 4 Vassar offers luxury living in a flexible, manageable space. **\$1,449,000**

And Glen Echo has it all: a fantastic community of neighbors you want to know, convenient access to Bethesda, DC and Virginia, and top public schools.

- Luminous living spaces throughout
- Thermidor appliances in a welcoming open kitchen
- One-car garage and off-street parking with Pinterest-worthy mudroom entrance
- Spacious master suite with marble double shower, double walk-in closets, and treetop views
- Two additional upper bedrooms and second floor laundry room
- Light-filled lower level rec room, bedroom and bath
- Bonus room for storage, home office, or gym



LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SALES: Kingman Development. Aaron Hirsch, Principal. An award-winning developer and Glen Echo resident with 20 years of experience in residential property development, design, and construction management.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Welty Homes, Inc., builders of more than 300 new homes in the greater Bethesda area since 1983.

ARCHITECTURE: Claude C. Lapp Architects, an award-winning firm with more than 35 years in the business.

Equal Housing Opportunity 

