



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

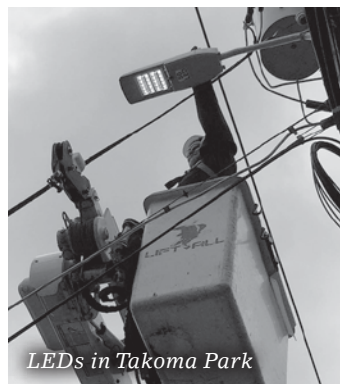
TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The November 9 meeting began with a closed session with the four Council Members, the Mayor, the Town Manager Ms. Boa, and Town lawyer Ron Bolt. They were getting advice from Mr. Bolt about the impact of Thrive Montgomery 2050, a long-term plan for growth in the County. Interested residents can get more information about it at www.montgomeryplanning.org. Once the closed session ended, several residents joined the Zoom call.

LED Streetlight Update

Mr. Bolt informed the Council about the recent filing of a rate case by Pepco to raise rates to convert streetlights in its service area to LEDs. Towns can convert now by paying upfront to have LEDs installed; this option would save electricity costs, maintenance costs, and lock in the current service cost. However, the Town needs to confirm how much this option would cost the Town. Mr. Bolt is waiting for this information and will report back. Alternatively, the Town can wait for Pepco

to install LED streetlights with no upfront costs at the higher rate. The Town has a call scheduled with Pepco representatives to discuss options. The towns that have installed LEDs save about 80% on electricity costs. The Town



LEDs in Takoma Park


will decide at the December 14 Council meeting which option to pursue based on which option provides greater savings. Prior to that meeting, Council Members will visit Martin's Additions and Takoma Park, which have already installed LED streetlights. The Town would like to have input into style, lumens, and color options. An analysis the Town received from Maryland Energy Administration estimates Glen Echo would reduce annual streetlight electricity costs from \$8,762 to \$2,424 by switching to LEDs.

Stormwater Management

Next came a presentation by residents Robin Kogelnik, who is getting a degree in sustainable urban planning, and Holly Shimizu, who leads the Town's environmental committee. They briefed the Council on a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant that could bring funds

LEAF PICK-UP SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS:
December 1, 8, 15
Leaves should be raked to the curb.



to the Town to help manage stormwater issues. Because the grant is for 501(c)3 organizations, the Town is piggybacking with the Bannockburn Community Clubhouse, which has already received funds from the Trust in the past. The Town is hoping for funds in the \$17k range to finance a study of its water issues and to create a plan to deal with them. The grant will be awarded in March, so next steps can be made after that.

Odds and Ends

The Mayor appointed Council Member Costello as

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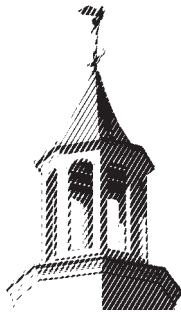
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Next Deadline: December 20, 2020

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: Dec. 14, 2020, 7 PM

the Council Vice President, which means she will act as president in the Mayor's absence. Mayor Polak said this was already the de facto case, but it needed to be formalized. There was no discussion on this.

Bids are being solicited to raise curbing at Harvard and University Avenues to protect properties from flooding, and permits were granted for a couple of dumpsters and PODs around town. The bid from A.B. Veirs (\$2,900) to repair the curb along University Avenue between Bryn Mawr Avenue and Wellesley Circle was more competitive than the one from Hughes (\$4,000). [Update: This work was done in November.]

The holiday season update is no annual Holiday party, and even the annual Santa visit with the Glen Echo Fire Department is only a maybe due to Covid. Look out for updates on the listserv from resident Gloria Levin, who is our representative on the Conduit Road Fire Board.

If you are interested in giving an end-of-the-year tip to the Key Sanitation workers, you can send checks to Francisco Perez and Carlos Fuentes at the Key Sanitation office. Key Sanitation, Incorporated, P.O. Box 163, Dickerson, Maryland 20842.

Town Expenses

In November, the Town paid \$3,200 to Key Sanitation and \$2,324 to Bolt Legal.

—EMILY PARSONS

While there is no Holiday Brunch this year, the Town is still planning to have the **Manna Food Drive** to help those in need. There will be a collection box in the lobby of the Town Hall from December 1-4, 9 AM-3 PM (masks required). You can find Manna's Most Needed Foods List or make a monetary donation at their website.



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NEW TO TOWN

When Covid-19-work-from-home made their Adams Morgan studio apartment suddenly too small, Leighton Duncan and Kim Billingsley began to search for a place with a bit more elbow room. But despite endless online housing listings, it was good old human connections that brought them to 32 Wellesley Circle. The house, most recently Nancy Long's home, was advertised only with a small "for rent" sign out front. Vassar Circle neighbor Mike Nalls—



Kim, Bella, & Leighton

Leighton's friend and Kim's colleague—spotted the sign, put the parties in touch, and Glen Echo's latest residents arrived this summer.

Both Leighton and Kim are scientists. He is a PhD student in neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University. He studies the eye and how blindness might be treated through regenerative medicine. She is a post-doctoral researcher at NIH, studying the genetics of Parkinson's disease at the National Institute on Aging. Leighton commutes to the Baltimore campus to care for the living cells in his lab there. Kim has the shorter trip to NIH, and a computer-centric lab that

offers a bit more flexibility. Their different commutes allow for plenty of walks for the third new resident at 32 Wellesley, a ball of energy and golden curls named Bella. The surprise twist of our interview came when it was revealed that Bella is a miniature cockapoo, not a goldendoodle as many of us fellow dog people had pegged her. So, breaking

news: Bella is not going to get any bigger.

Kim is from the United Kingdom near Liverpool.

She came to NIH to do research while pursuing her PhD and was happy to have the opportunity to return after completing it. Leighton was born in Jamaica but moved with his family to Connecticut as a child. He worked in a lab at Yale before beginning his program at Hopkins.

Not surprisingly, Kim and Leighton's free time is limited, and tends to be spent walking Bella and talking and thinking about their work. Eventually they'll return to going to the gym and seeing friends, but with a new house and a new dog for Covid-times, they're happy where they are. —ANGELA HIRSCH



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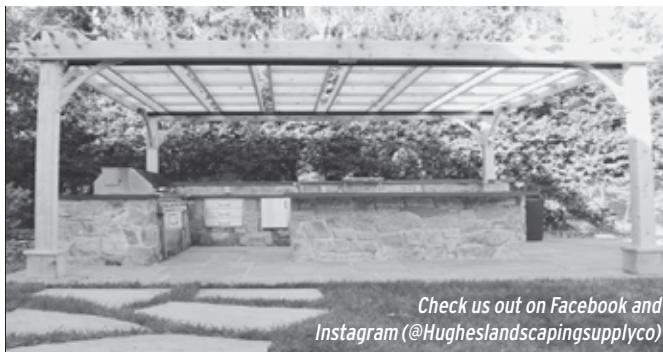
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Here is my personal list of horticultural gifts to give or receive for the holiday season. We are spending more time at home, so indoor plants can be a healthy and attractive addition to any room. My two favorites are:

🌿 Starfish sanseveria (*Sanseveria cylindrica* var. *patula* 'Boncel') I love this plant! It does look a bit like a star and is easy to grow. Its succulent, short leaves fan out in a beautiful pattern. Because it is a succulent, it should only



be watered when dry and needs bright indirect light. On a recent trip to American Plant, I noticed them being unpacked, and they are also available online. I ordered mine through Etsy, and I am happy to have it.

HOLLY IN THE IVY



🌿 Green velvet alocasia (*Alocasia micholitziana* 'Frydek') The leaves of Frydek alocasia are absolutely stunning. Their velvety texture and white veins are striking. It prefers a bright, humid environment and will grow about 2–3 feet tall. Note of warning: It is toxic to cats and dogs.

📖 My choice for a new book is *Nose Dive: A Field Guide to the World's Smells* by Harold McGee. Recently he was interviewed on NPR talking about his latest

book. He distills the science around smell and describes why things smell the way they do. Scent is a fascinating area of new discoveries.

Other Items on my Wish List include:



🌿 Leaf Bag/Gardening Tote by Amatory.

My plastic weed/debris holders have broken into pieces, so I am opting for this canvas holder that is, hopefully, more durable. The one I am requesting is heavy duty and strong and has multiple uses. It is listed on Amazon for \$22.

🌿 Spear-headed Gardening Spade with Reinforced Cushion Handle. This is a must-have tool



for me this year. It is ergonomic and requires less effort when digging through tough soil and roots. You can find it listed on The Grommet website for \$52.

🌿 Canvas Garden Apron. It is always convenient to have hand tools and cell phone at the ready when gardening. I found a perfect solution—a canvas garden apron with many pockets.



It is available through Anthropologie/Terrain for \$38. —HOLLY SHIMIZU

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OUT AND ABOUT



Will holiday shopping have to be done entirely online this year? Ordering blindly, unsure of what quality you are getting? Though some of the traditional outdoor markets are not happening this year, there are still plenty of safe holiday shopping options offering unique gifts made locally. The largest is the **Downtown DC Holiday Market**, which runs daily through December 23 on F Street between 7th and 9th Streets. But there's no need to go so far with a Holiday Market right across the way at the **Bannockburn Clubhouse** on Friday, December 4, from 3–8 PM.

Closest to home and our hearts is the **Glen Echo Holiday Art Show and Sale**, which runs Thursdays to Sundays through January 5 in the Popcorn and Stone

Tower galleries. Be sure to stroll through the Park on Saturday, December 5, for the **Winter Outdoor Pottery Market**, 10 AM–4 PM. It's the perfect event for finding beautiful, unique gifts for the holidays. The rain date is the following Saturday, December 12.

The **Brookmont and Bethesda farmer's markets** have beefed up gift-y type wares these days. From olive oils and scented soaps to cozy knits and small-batch booze. The Brookmont market runs on Wednesdays, 3–7 PM, and the Bethesda one is Sundays, 9 AM–1:30 PM.

Giving Amazon.com a run for their money is our local toy shop **Anglo Dutch Pools and Toys** in the Westbard Shopping Center. You can get recommendations and buy everything you need for the kids in your life on their website (www.anglodutchpoolsandtoys.com), then swing by to pick

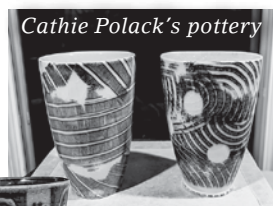
up your wrapped gifts. Don't feel like leaving your house? They offer free local delivery. The **Bethesda Co-Op** in Cabin John is also chockablock with feelgood gifts this time of year.

Our Town has more than its fair share of artisans and entrepreneurs, so go **hyperlocal** and reach out to one of the following:



A Carol Barton landscape

Carol Barton (cbarton@mindspring.com) watercolor paintings, \$35–\$200, and collage kits of nice decorative papers for kids, \$2 each.



Cathie Polack's pottery



Cathie Polack (cpolak@gmail.com) pottery.

Jan Shaut (jshaut@gmail.com) jams, \$7, and pickles, \$9.



Aaron Hirsch (aaronhirsch.com) pottery from Costa Rica, where a lack of tourism has left

Aaron's Peace Corps village struggling to survive. To help, Aaron has imported pieces to sell here, and all proceeds from sales will go back to the artisan Maribel Snachez. \$20–\$50. —EMILY PARSONS



Maribel Sanchez at work



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Under the category Good Things Still Happen During Covid, we can include the expanded Chused household on Wellesley Circle. Two years ago, **Amy Chused** was planning to drive up to New York for a Single Mothers By Choice retreat with her three kids—**David, Elspeth, and Diana**. Luckily, she decided it



would be best to carpool, so through a single moms' group, she connected with **Shana Masullo**, who was also going to the retreat with her boys, **Gryffyn** and **Lucas**. The kids hit it off, as did their mothers,

HAVE YOU HEARD?

who never ran out of things to talk about. In August, Shana and her sons moved to Wellesley Circle, making the Chused/Masullo family likely the largest in town! Here's the tally: two moms, five kids, three cats, two dogs, and one au pair. Welcome to Glen Echo, Shana, Lucas, and Gryffyn!

Once again, Glen Echo has the opportunity to provide gifts for families in homeless and transitional housing through S.O.M.E. (**So Others May Eat**). This year, S.O.M.E. is requesting **GIFT CARDS ONLY** to keep everyone safe. Suggested gift cards are from Target, Walmart, Amazon, and VISA in \$25–\$150 amounts. Their goal is to provide each child with a \$50 gift amount or \$150 for a family gift. Instead of names and wishlists this year, we are asking our young artists to include a homemade card

or ornament to attach to the gifts. **Patty Sieber** and **Julia Wilson** are organizing this drive. Please, let them know if you plan to drop off a gift at one of their homes.

This year, the Town sponsored its Manager **Beth Boa** for Senior Leadership Montgomery, a program that introduces people to various aspects of the County and provides networking opportunities for its members. Other Glen Echoans who have graduated include **Gloria Levin** and **Claire Kelly**.

As we close out this very strange year, I must take a moment to thank all of the volunteers who make *The Echo* possible. For a little town publication, we've got an award-winning art director, 4 delightful and always-on-time columnists, 12 other contributors who write a piece or two each year or supply much-needed photos or neighborhood news, 2 copyeditors who make every issue better, 7 distributors who get the issues out to you and our

subscribers (yes, we have subscribers!) each month, and our invaluable ad sales team. Special thanks also to Town Manager Beth Boa, who helpfully answers all my questions each month. In so many ways, we have had to distance from each other this year, but working on *The Echo* with our neighbors has kept us connected. I hope that we can entice more Glen Echoans (teens included!) to join us this year. Email me at TheEchoEditor@gmail.com to get involved. Do it now, because next year's *Echo* holiday party will have to celebrate two years' worth of collaboration.
—EMILY PARSONS

Real Estate

6005 Princeton Avenue closed earlier this fall at \$1,138,500 with multiple



offers. 6000 Bryn Mawr Avenue remains on the market listed at \$1,029,000, and the new build at 10 Vassar Circle is coming soon at \$1,499,000.

OUR TOWN PARK

In the spring, we had significant vandalism and damage to the interior of the Denzel Carousel, which fortunately, with support of the National Park Service, has been fully restored. Since then, we have experienced other worrisome activities: graffiti on the Arcade building and unauthorized access to the Crystal Pool area. We have also found individuals climbing onto the roof of the Arcade building. These activities are extremely dangerous. As a result, we have invested in new security cameras as well as security personnel to patrol the grounds in the evenings. We are hopeful that this type of activity will not recur. —MARTHA SHANNON



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Dec. 8, **Gryffyn Masullo**, 6
Dec. 10, **Gabriela Hooper**, 13
Dec. 11, **Lara T Epanchin**, 6

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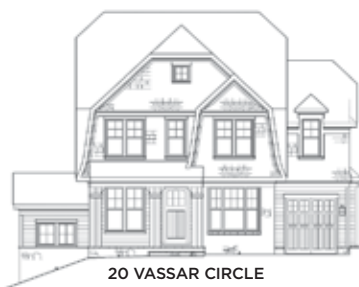
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10 VASSAR CIRCLE



14 VASSAR CIRCLE



20 VASSAR CIRCLE



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