



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ APRIL 2021

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Mayor Polak, the four Council Members, Town Manager Beth Boa, advisor-to-the-Mayor Jean Sperling, and a couple of residents made up the March 8 virtual Council meeting. It was a relatively short one.

Election Details

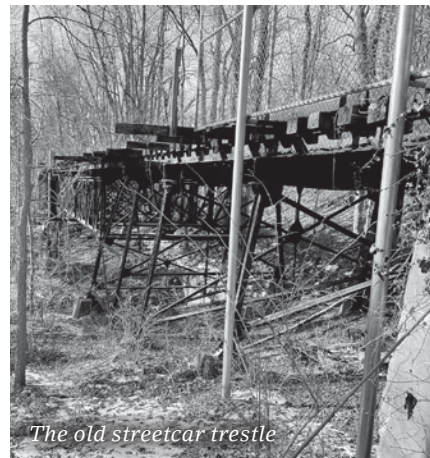
Supervisor of elections Jan Shaut briefed the Council on the details of the May 3 Town election for two Council seats and the Mayorship (see page 11 for those). After researching what outdoor voting would look like and cost, Ms. Shaut recommended that the voting be held upstairs in Town Hall. Residents will enter through the front in limited numbers, masked, and vote in a socially distanced manner upstairs. The space will be sanitized prior to the election, stations will be wiped down between voters, and the windows will be open if weather permits. Residents will be given personal pens, and masks and hand

sanitizer will be available if needed. After voting, residents will exit out the back of Town Hall. Any resident who is not comfortable with in-person voting may request an absentee ballot by April 29 from Ms. Shaut at jsbaut@gmail.com. Important: Absentee ballots must be returned to Town Hall by April 30. Four or five volunteers are needed for election day, and when asked if they should be vaccinated, Ms. Shaut conceded that it would probably be best, though any resident interested in helping out on election day should email her.

Trestle Demolition

In 2022, WMATA plans to demolish and remove the

crumbling trestle from the old streetcar line out in the woods beyond Radcliffe Lane. Mayor Polak provided the update on this issue:



The old streetcar trestle

Not much has happened since the meeting WMATA had with residents on February 22. There is still so much that WMATA needs to figure out about its logistics that the Town needs to wait for now but be ready to influence anything it can to minimize the impact on Town infrastructure and residents. Council Member Spealman noted the high level of opposi-

tion to the project that residents had at the February WMATA meeting. He asked if there was anything the Town could do to protect itself, like refusing to grant access to Town streets and right-of-way. The short answer from the Mayor is that there isn't anything we can do to stop the project if WMATA chooses to proceed. That said, the Mayor and Council will be very engaged in the process and plan to keep residents well informed.

Odds and Ends

Bids are in for raising the sidewalk at Harvard and University Avenues. The Council agreed to go with the lowest bid from A.B. Veirs. Ms. Boa is still waiting for another bid to repair the iron fencing around Town Hall.

Permits have been granted for a new dormered

THE ECHO

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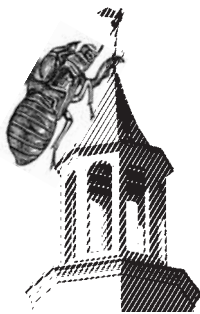
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Next Deadline: April 20, 2021

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: April 12, 2021, 7 PM

porch at 6004 Princeton Avenue, for some WSSC trenching at 6101 Harvard Avenue, which could have some impact on Post Office traffic, and for all three homes on Vassar Circle.

Ms. Boa reported that the Town's finances are looking good. Expected revenues are coming in, and thanks to the frugality of last year's budget, the Town seems to have weathered the pandemic well. And there could be even brighter financial news coming with the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Boa said that the Town could be receiving as much as \$225k from the federal government. The news left the Council a bit stunned, but details, like when and how those funds could be spent, not to mention a check in hand, remain to be seen.

The Mayor noted that there were some environmental concerns about bringing and salting the roads during incidents of snow

and ice because we are so close to the canal and river. The Council agreed to discuss the options with Rolling Acres for next year. Ms. Boa told the Council that the Town did not receive a grant it had applied for from Chesapeake Bay Trust. The grant would have paid for a study of the Town's water issues and create a plan for dealing with them. Working again with residents Holly Shimizu and Robin Kogelnik, Ms. Boa has applied for a different grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust for the same purpose.

On a positive note, Mayor Polak has gotten the National Park Service to agree to silence the outdoor alarm at the Clara Barton House—a regular nuisance to nearby neighbors.

Town Expenses

In March, the Town paid \$3,200 to Key Sanitation and \$1,013 to Bolt Legal.—EMILY PARSONS

MONEY MATTERS

On March 10, the Mayor and Town Council held an open work session to discuss the FY22 budget. Mayor Polak and Town Manager Beth Boa created the budget with the help of Jean Sperling, an advisor to the Mayor; the Council weighed in with questions and suggestions. The two-and-a-half-hour meeting drew just one resi-

dent, so those interested in details should check the proposed budget, which can be found on the Town's website.

Here are some highlights: The property tax rate will remain \$.15/\$100. The Town is expecting to receive \$225k from the American Rescue Plan in two installments over the next two years, but the details are not

yet known. Possible upcoming projects include new street signs—which resident Gloria Levin argued is vital to the fire department for getting around in an emergency—new sidewalks, and repaved roads.

Jean Sperling recommended regular traffic studies in Town to monitor and track what is happening on the streets. She has also in the past pushed for a large-scale survey of the Town's infrastructure and property lines. This item appeared on the capital projects list to be considered, and the Mayor stressed that it was the first thing that was needed. The Council pushed back saying that residents would probably need some convincing to support a survey that could run \$50k. The Mayor continues to push for the sale of the two Town-owned parcels of land over at Oberlin and Tulane, but again the Council questioned the necessity. Council Member Spealman said that he didn't want an asset of the

Town's to be liquified and then spent, leaving us without that rainy day fund. He asked that the Mayor and Town Manager come up with a schedule for capital projects, so that they know in advance which year will have a particular outlay, say for new roads, allowing the Town to budget for them.

The Mayor has budgeted \$20k for the Town lawyer and \$16k for the Town engineer. He cited the upcoming trestle demolition as the primary known issue that could incur costs in these areas in the next year.

The issue of Town donations was discussed. In the end, the Council raised that line item from \$2k to \$3k to allow for gifts to both Glen Echo Park Partnership and local fire departments. They also raised the amount for the archive project to \$5k in order to digitize Town records—old meeting minutes will then be searchable. The budget is set to be introduced March 29. —EMILY PARSONS



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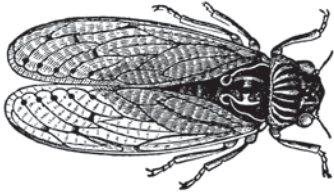
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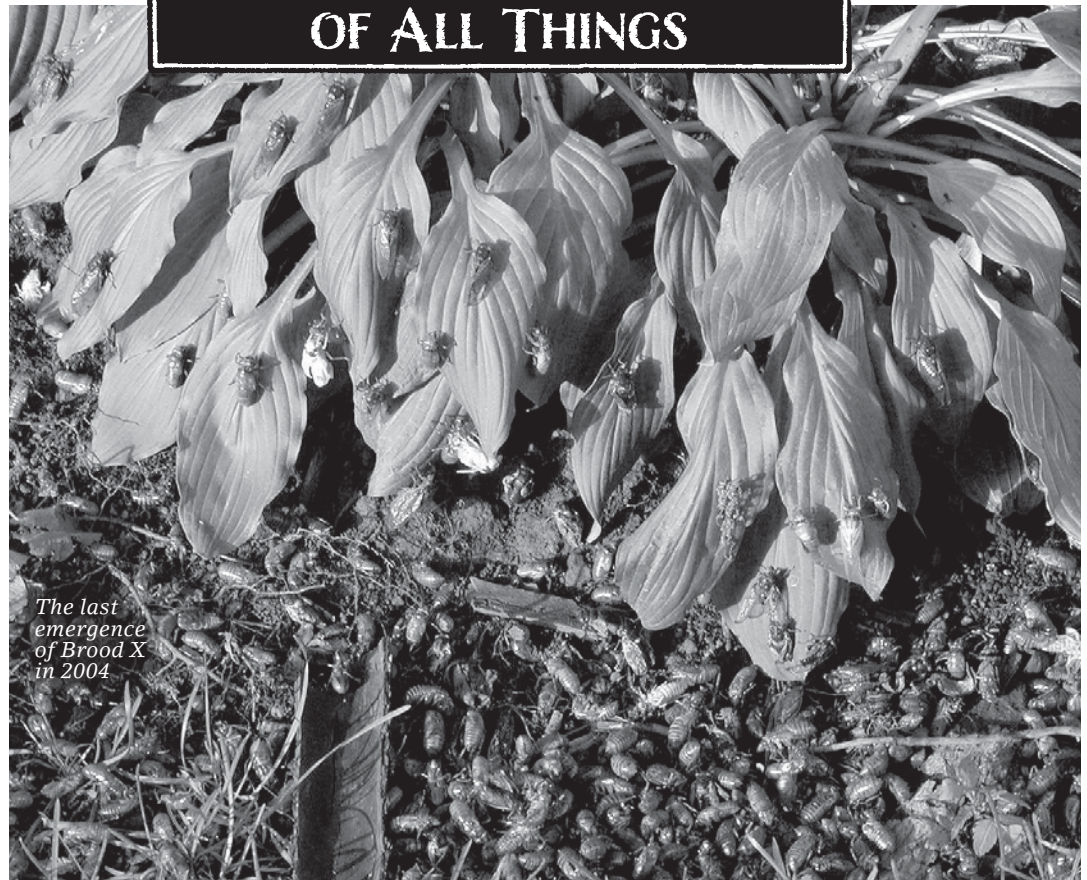


Maryland is famous for the blue crab. We love crab so much that it's the official state crustacean. Other notable crustaceans that make their way onto our plates include lobsters, shrimp, prawns, and crayfish—a group of animals many of us just call tasty. These lovely crustaceans are in the phylum arthropoda. Do you know what else is in the arthropod phylum? Cicadas. And this May, the Brood X cicada is coming to pretty much every outdoor space near you. And Glen Echo is charmed with abundant outdoor space.

You will see them. You will hear them. You will feel them. I don't think you will smell them, but some of you may choose to engage in entomophagy and, yes, taste them.

Full disclosure: I'm giddy with excitement to experience the magic of a species that emerges from below our feet in a massive and synchronous resource pulse every 17 years. For all you cicada haters out there, let me try to yum your yuck, even just a smidge (hello, insect pun! smidge ... midge ... get it?).

There is so much that makes Brood X an unbelievable marvel of nature. For me, the top three incredible things about Brood X are: 1. They stay underground for 17 years before



emergence; 2. Periodical cicadas are found nowhere else in the world outside of the eastern United States; and 3. They are abundant. Crazy abundant. About 1.5 million cicadas per acre. Dang! That's more than 34 per square foot.

Like many insects, they use seasonal cues such as soil temperature to know what time of year to emerge, but what is puzzling is how they know that 17 years have gone by and that this is the year to emerge. How does a cicada larva keep count of 17 years? It's theorized that periodical cicadas detect the passing of a year using annually available environmental cues like trees leafing out, a signal detectable

CHOCOLATE CHIRP TRILLERS

INGREDIENTS:

2-1/4 cups flour	1 12-ounce package chocolate chips
1 tsp. baking soda	
1 tsp. salt	1 cup chopped nuts
1 cup butter, softened	1/2 cup dry-roasted chopped cicadas (<i>place cicadas on cookie sheet and roast at 225° F for 10 to 15 minutes or until they are soft and dry, a bit like a nut</i>)
3/4 cup sugar	
3/4 cup brown sugar	
1 tsp. vanilla	
2 eggs	



DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 375° F.
2. In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.
3. In large bowl, combine butter, sugar, brown sugar and vanilla; beat until creamy. Beat in eggs.
4. Gradually add flour mixture and insects; mix well. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts.
5. Drop by rounded measuring teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet.
6. Bake for 8-10 minutes.

Yield: Approximately 3 dozen cookies

in underground root fluids. That makes sense but still no one has demonstrated a mechanism for how they keep track of these annual events for 17 years. That's a scientific stumper. Maybe it's magic, thus explaining the scientific name of the three



species making up Brood X periodical cicadas: They are in the genus *Magicicada*.

Why 17 years anyway? Or 13 years like the other periodical cicadas? These are both prime numbers. As such, scientists think this reduces the likelihood of a predator synchronizing its lifecycle with the cicada's—were there a 16-year cicada it could get hit much harder by a predator with a 2-, 4-, or 8-year lifecycle. While in their prime, predators will feast on Brood X until fully satiated. But the cicadas' game is to overwhelm the predators, thus ensuring yet another robust and successful cicada orgy, unlike any other seen since 2004.

Now, return to the crustaceans we know and love (to eat), crabs and lobsters. Let's expand that group of arthropods to include insects, specifically cicadas. I haven't yet tasted cicada,

though I'm told they can be an epicurean treat with a delicate, nutty flavor. I plan to venture into entomophagy (literally insect consumption) this spring. Like sushi, which was not commonplace in the U.S. a few decades ago and is

now found everywhere, look no further than to insect cuisine for the world's future protein. Indeed, insects are an important food source for people around the world. I challenge you to be an early adopter!

Try this link to get started: www.tullabs.com/cicada-world/cicadarecipes.pdf. My colleague Jenna Jadin has been cooking "with" cicadas and wrote this guide 17 years ago, at Brood X's last go around. She has both sweet and savory recipes—including a Maryland crab-style boil. Cicadas should be gathered in the early morning hours just after they have emerged and before their exoskeletons have hardened. Collect your harvest into a brown paper bag and keep them in the fridge until you are ready to cook.

I've included one of Dr. Jadin's cookie recipes for adventurous cooks with a sweet tooth to try. If you plan to dry roast the cicadas, like in this recipe, you can freeze them first. —PETE EPANCHIN



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A container filled with blooming plants will bring you great joy throughout the summer. The plants you select should be tailored to the conditions—meaning how much sun or shade they will receive. Use your imagination and try to picture what you want your combination to look like. Do you envision a tropical blend, all white, foliage, moon garden, butterfly garden, purple and orange, vegetables, or herbs? Each year new plants are promoted based on excellent performance, floriferousness, flavor, colors, habit, etc. I chose a few examples for container combinations but follow your instincts.

If you need a container, I recommend clay because it allows the soil to breathe due to its porosity. A larger container is a good idea because the soil will stay moist longer. This quality of a clay pot is important especially if you will be traveling. Be sure that the container drains well. It is critical to avoid excess water, which will cause



An inspiring display of terracotta planters at Kew Gardens

plant roots to rot or decay, resulting in wilting followed by complete loss of the plants. I always place some pieces of broken clay pots in the base of the container to ensure it has adequate drainage and then follow

with potting soil. Generally, a mix of equal parts loamy soil, compost, and coarse sand works well. Note: Pots seem to take more soil than you think they will need, so buy a large bag or blend a large amount.

As you select your plants, consider the importance of how many plants you will need. I recommend you pack your plants in tightly, which means you will need more than you think! Other considerations, and this is where your imagination comes into play, are balance, contrast, colors, and texture. The following ideas are simply a guideline. If you are unable to find specific plants, use similar ones that can easily be found at a good nursery. In addition, you will find certain new cultivars have variations with many different colors, so you can blend your own favorite color combinations. When placing weeping plants at the edges, it can be helpful to angle out the plants to encourage cascading.

Summer Flowering Blend with Cascading Flowers
Calibrachoa x Superbells Coral Sun: graceful trailing stems fall over the container, blooms all summer, self-cleaning, and

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loved by hummingbirds

Verbena 'Vanessa Bicolor Indigo': a vigorous, trailing annual with violet and white flowers, a strong grower that will bloom through summer



Canna 'The President': big and bold, plant this towards the center of the container, the red flowers will attract hummingbirds and it will bloom all summer

Pentas 'Beebright White': an upright plant, the flowers are a major attraction for butterflies, blooms all summer

Other options include **Angelonia 'Aria Blue':** a lovely upright blue flowering annual that holds up to our intense summer heat

Salvia 'Black and Blue': flowers are a rich electric blue, if deadheaded, it will bloom all summer, plants can get up to 3 feet

tall, so it is best placed in the center of a container, loved by hummingbird and butterflies

Impatiens hybrid Sun-patiens 'Rose Glow': these New Guinea type impatiens thrive in full sun or partial shade and bloom throughout the summer, they come in many great colors—pinks, coral, white

Zinnia 'Double Zahara Cherry': grows to 14 inches tall, disease resistant, a long season of bloom, grow in full sun

Scaevola aemula 'Surdiva Blue Violet': comes from Australia and is one of the most heat-tolerant annuals, deep violet-blue flowers, low growing, great for containers or hanging baskets

Shade Summer Blend Begonia 'Santa Cruz': lovely, deep orange red flowers on cascading stems, graceful habit, will attract hummingbirds

Caladium 'Hot 2 Trot': the leaves are beautifully shaped and have bright red centers with green margins

Coleus (Solenostemon) Main Street Series: has really beautifully colored foliage, does well in shade and grows to around 2 feet

Ferns make an excellent foliage plant in shade containers. Their texture and beauty of greens can soften and break up hot colors. Consider growing the



autumn fern (Dryopteris erythrosora) or the **holly fern (Cyrtomium falcatum).**

Gorgeous Summer Herbal Blend for Sun Cymbopogon citratus lemon grass: beautiful leaves and a great plant for the center of the container

Thymus x citriodorus 'Aureus' golden lemon thyme: perfect to fall over the edges of the container, leaves are a stunning gold and green, fantastic for use in flavoring

Petroselinum crispum 'Sweet Curly Parsley': curly parsley is so attractive, incredibly great in the kitchen, and extremely nutritious

Ocimum basilicum 'Genovese': considered the best of Italian basil for its intense flavor and gorgeous shiny green leaves. —HOLLY SHIMIZU

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References
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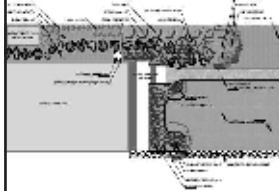
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OUT AND ABOUT

That 2020 saw more closings than openings is no surprise, but what is amazing is that anything opened at all. Case in point: **The Roost**, a new **food hall** in Capitol Hill, opened last fall in a residential building at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue SE. The expansive 12,500 square foot space currently houses ten vendors with hopes of more coming throughout the year. Head to Cameo for a cup of coffee and pair it with a breakfast toast from Leni for a scrumptious treat. Each stall has its own hours ranging from 8 AM to 10 PM.

Perhaps a less surpris-



ing pandemic story: A new museum—**Planet Word**, which opened in October in the historic Franklin School at 13th and K Streets—actually remains physically closed due to Covid. Up until now, its events have had to remain online. This month, join **Poems for the Pandemic** on April 6 for some of the country's best poets presenting works inspired

by the past year. On April 9, join renowned author Maureen Corrigan as she discusses the enduring appeal of F. Scott Fitzgerald's **The Great Gatsby**.

Traditional events continue to adapt to current circumstances. This year, the **National Cherry Blossom Festival** enters the digital age with a hybrid agenda that includes ways for all to participate—remotely or in person. Some of the highlights include a call to all neighborhoods to get in the spirit with porch

decorations and a virtual pup parade streaming online on April 3. The festivities will continue through April 11 this year.

And nothing says spring better than the start of a new baseball season. While it's a huge step that fans are returning to the stadium, MLB is keeping to limited capacity. For the **Nats' season opener** on April 1 and throughout the coming games, seats are limited to 5,000 and only available to season holders. Act fast to get your season pass or take pleasure in the fact that sports will at least be back on screen again.
—MONA KISHORE

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Good Friday, on YouTube
Stations of the Cross on the lawn
Easter Day 8am & 10:30 on the lawn
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for waiver and registration

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HAVE YOU HEARD?

The **Town election** on May 3 is just a month away. Residents will be voting upstairs at Town Hall between 5 and 9 PM to elect two Council Members and the Mayor. Residents interested in running need to let **Jan Shaut** know in writing by April 13. *The Echo* will provide space in the May issue for statements by candidates (deadline April 20). And anyone who does not want to vote in person should request an absentee ballot from Jan by April 29. (See below for all the details.) If you are willing to volunteer on election day, likewise contact Jan. We encourage everyone to get in-

involved—run, volunteer, and for sure vote!

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From dirt they came, and back to the mud they shall slide. The must-do party drink of the season: the **Frozen Mudslide Brood X!** After you have collected a paper bag full of freshly unearthed cicadas, freeze them. They are the ice in this slushy concoction. Toss in the blender 1 part vodka to 1 part Kahlua to 1 part Bailey's and a big handful of iced bugs. Blend




They Say it's Your **BIRTHDAY!**

April 4, **Archer Anderson**, 2
April 5, **Diana Chused**, 6
April 12, **Durke Anderson**, 11
April 19, **Adeline Bohi**, 14
April 20, **Colby Epanchin**, 10



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away and garnish with an abandoned shell. Note: If you want to forget that you are drinking cicadas, double the ... well, everything!*

.....
Regarding the March Echo's tree articles:



Gloria Levin pointed out (via the Town listserv) that considering the pending cicada emergence, it's probably wise to **put off planting** young saplings until the fall.

Real Estate

Just listed: 6109 Princeton Avenue, with an asking price of \$949,000. (That's Patty Sieber's house, but don't be alarmed, she's only moving to Cabin John!) Still on the market are the next Vassar Circle home, #10, listed at \$1,499,000, and the commercial property at 7370 MacArthur Boulevard listed at \$2,750,000.



All things Carousel continues this spring. A ribbon cutting is planned for May 1 at 10:30 AM to celebrate the carousel's grand reopening and its 100th anniversary. The ribbon cutting event will be live-streamed and will feature political leaders from local, county, state, and federal levels. The National Park Service is planning some special activities to complement the opening ceremonies. If Covid restrictions allow, the carousel will open for the season with social-distancing guidelines and cleaning protocols in place along with timed-entry tickets: \$5/per-

OUR TOWN PARK

son for unlimited rides during a 2-hour time period. Please continue to check the Park website for event details at glenechopark.org/carousel100.

The lecture series on the carousel continues this month. Join us on April 14 at 7:30 PM for a live-streamed lecture on the history of our TWO carousels. Yes, there have been two at the Park. The lecture titled "Glen Echo's Two Great Carousels: Coney Island versus Philadelphia Style" will be delivered by carousel historian Barbara Fahs Charles.

A call for artists is now out for the in-person juried exhibition *100 years in the Present* to run in the Popcorn and Stone Tower galleries from May 7 to May 30. See the website for more information on this opportunity for regional artists. In addition, we will soon be planning the FY 2022 art show schedule. Proposals are due for these by June 28, 2021.

Summer camps are being planned and will run from late June through August. And good news, the Aquarium is now opening up for visits several days a week. Check their website. —MARTHA SHANNON

TOWN ELECTION DETAILS: Glen Echo will have an election on May 3 for two Council seats and the Mayorship. The terms are four years. Those interested in running for any of these open seats must be at least 25 years old, a resident of the Town of Glen Echo for at least one year, and a registered voter in the Town. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen. Your written declaration of candidacy must be delivered by April 13 to Jan Shaut, Supervisor, Board of Elections, 6004 Harvard Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812. Residents 18 years and older may vote, and you can register when you come to vote—proof of residency may be requested. Absentee ballots will be provided to anyone who requests one (contact Jan at JShaut@gmail.com prior to the election).

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