



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The November 8 virtual meeting included Mayor Costello, Town Manager Beth Boa, all four Council Members, and a couple of residents. Town Lawyer Ron Bolt and GW Parkway Superintendent Charles Cuvelier also joined for portions of the Council meeting.

National Park Service Update

Mr. Cuvelier presented an overview to the Council of recent and upcoming investments in his jurisdiction, which includes the GW Parkway and many parks, parkways, and sites along it, including Glen Echo Park, the Clara Barton Parkway, and the Clara Barton House. Recent projects have included the improvements to the roads and ramps along the Clara Barton Parkway, the repairs and maintenance of the Dentzel Carousel and Band Organ in Glen Echo Park, and repairs to the Clara Barton House. Mr. Cuvelier reported that thanks to the Great Ameri-

can Outdoor Act, National Park Service funding will be increasing dramatically, and rehabbing the Clara Barton historical site will most likely be part of that. It is important that the site continues to tell Barton's story, but there is sufficient space in the property that other uses are being explored. There will be repair and preservation of the interior, but room could also be made for the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture to expand its offices there. NPS is in discussion with Montgomery County and GEPPAC but is also going to open up the space for "expressions of interest" from the public.

There has been some

resident concern about cars racing on the Clara Barton Parkway. Mr. Cuvelier said that safety on the parkway is overseen by the U.S. Park Police led by John Hofflinger. If residents hear cars racing or accidents on the parkway, they can call 202-610-7500. Mr. Cuvelier will be updating the Council quarterly.

Town Legal Issues

Town lawyer Ron Bolt briefed the Council on several ongoing issues. The County Council has passed a bill regulating small cell towers. This legislation will affect how telecommunications companies handle the installation of 5G poles. Truly, the FCC will determine how municipalities will be able to regulate this process if at all. The Mayor and Ms. Boa will be working with Martin's Additions to consider hiring a shared telecommunications engineer for guidance. The Town passed an ordinance


regarding this in 2019 per FCC requirements. The Town remains compliant with the FCC, and Mr. Bolt will continue to monitor the situation.

Three internet providers share a cable franchise in Town. Their contract is up for renewal. The County handles the negotiations, and the Town typically signs onto whatever the agreement is. Mr. Bolt will update Council again when the terms are settled.

There was an issue with the contract recently created to hire a new Town engineer, who would be avail-

LEAF PICK-UP SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS:
December 7, 21
Leaves should be raked to the curb.



THE ECHO

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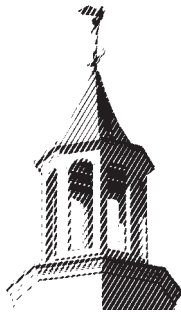
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed.

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 Council Meeting: December 13, 2021, 7 PM

able as needed, to replace Joe Toomey. The chosen candidate, Doug Lohmeyer, doesn't have general liability insurance and says that getting it presents a financial hardship—he might not make enough from the Town to cover the cost. The Council thought this was surprising especially considering he provides similar services to other municipalities. Mayor Costello and Ms. Boa will continue to negotiate, and Council Member Stiglitz asked that they find out why the other towns haven't required standard insurance.

Animal Ordinance

Changes to the Town's ordinance pertaining to animals was proposed by the Mayor, introduced by the Council, and will most likely be passed at the December meeting. The primary change is to eliminate outdated language about the Town having an animal control officer or committee to settle animal-related disputes. Council Member Spealman asked if anyone was interested in reviving the old debate about which animals are allowed in Town. The Mayor said that there has been no recent interest from residents regarding expansion of the animals allowed in Town (chickens and bees were mentioned), and Council members expressed little interest in reopening

the discussion. That said, if any residents do want their voices heard on this issue, now is the time.

Town Business

The Mayor and Ms. Boa have gotten five bids for Town landscaping, which will start in the spring. The general consensus was that it's time for a change from Hughes Landscaping. With input from Environmental Committee Chair Holly Shimizu, Ms. Boa was recommending that the Town hire Maple Hill Lawn and Garden. She reported that the company has excellent references, prices comparable to what we've been paying, and a willingness to follow our non-toxic weed-control policy. The Council delayed signing off until they could see all of the bids, but plan to finalize at the December meeting.

Creating a capital investment plan for the Town has proven elusive, but Mayor Costello and Ms. Boa took a stab at an Excel doc outlining major expenses. Major projects include repaving Town roads, replacing sidewalks, and replacing the Town Hall's HVAC and elevator. Smaller projects include Town streetlights, street signs, and Town Hall improvements. Mr. Spealman said that he'd like to see the items on a long-term calendar, e.g., the HVAC gets replaced every 16 years. Council Member

Kishore said that a document like that would be helpful to incoming Council Members. Mayor Costello said that creating such a detailed document was difficult especially since many of the projects hinge on the completion of other projects, e.g., signs must be done after sidewalks, which must be done before streets, and everything must be done after stormwater mitigations. When Mr. Stiglitz asked if the American Rescue Act funds could be used to replace sidewalks and gutters, the Mayor said her understanding was that it could be used for gutters, but not sidewalks. The other question is whether residents desire new sidewalks at all—they would need to be higher, wider, and ADA compliant. Mayor Costello and Ms. Boa will work to create something that can be shared with residents to get feedback.

The Mayor would like to have Mr. Bolt create a new lease agreement with the Irish Inn. Currently, the Inn

pays \$300 per month for the Town lot adjoining its property, which it uses for parking. The Town is required to give the Inn a year's notice if it decides to end the agreement. Mayor Costello posited that if the Town did decide to sell that land, it might need to end the agreement without a year's notice. The Council agreed to have Mr. Bolt draw up a contract with a shorter notification time.

Odds and Ends

Ms. Boa reported that the Halloween party was such a success that it will remain out on Harvard Avenue in future years. She also said that the catering for the Holiday party on December 12 will be handled by The Bean Bag. She and the Mayor are working with the Post Office to finalize a new lease, since the old one ends in December.

There was a robust discussion about whether the next Council meeting should be in person. The Council wants resi-



TOWN TREE PROGRAM

Glen Echo has lost many large trees in the past decade, and Town Council recognizes the importance of maintaining our canopy for both aesthetic and environmental reasons. Hence, the Council has discussed the idea of having a proactive tree-planting policy. Our Town Manager Beth Boa developed such a policy for Martin's Additions that might be used as a model. (There, the town purchases and plants native canopy trees on private property, and the recipients commit to their ongoing care.)

The Environmental Committee's tree sub-committee will draft a tree-planting proposal to present to Town Council for consideration. We are looking at a more limited program, perhaps lasting only a year, and offering a selection of just a few large canopy species (oaks, sycamores, and maples, most likely).

In the meantime, we wish to gauge the level of interest for a tree program in Glen Echo. **If you are a Town resident interested in participating** and have a spot or spots in your yard appropriate for large trees (i.e. no power lines overhead), please email me at maryaliceparsons@gmail.com. —MARY PARSONS

dents to be able to attend, so the December 13 meeting will be upstairs at Town Hall at 7 PM. Masks are optional unless the County metrics change for the worse. If they do, then the meeting will most likely revert to virtual.

Town Expenses

In November, the Town paid \$4,000 to LSWG (audit), \$1,361 to PNC Bank (credit card), \$1,192 to Hughes Landscaping, and \$1,085 to Bolt Legal. —EMILY PARSONS



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References
can be provided

Contact Stephanie Rhein at
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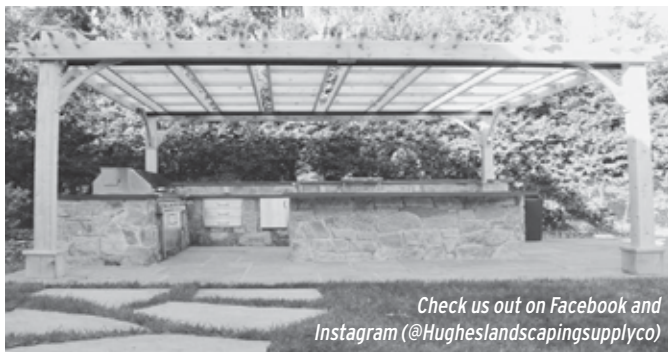


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www.redeemberbethesda.org

Music at Redeemer

December 4, 7pm
Viva Cantando-Suffer a Sea Change
December 5, Time TBD
Advent Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve Services
Noon, 4pm, 9pm

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Our new neighbor, Meighan Stone, will cringe when she reads this, but here it is: She's a teeny bit glamorous! She's toured with rock stars, written a book, and serves on boards for organizations you know. Kind of fancy, right?

But Meighan is also quite Glen Echo-y, as you will learn. And she is very happy to have joined our community.

Meighan and her son, Moses (who goes by Mo), moved into 12 Wellesley Circle in October after renting for a stint in Brookmont. She says she knew Glen Echo was the kind of community she wanted to join this summer. After dropping Mo off for camp at Glen Echo Park, she took a call in the Wild Bird Centers parking lot and somehow managed to lodge her car hopelessly in the embankment at its edge. Making matters more dire, she was preparing for a television interview that morning to promote her new book (more on that later), and had run

NEW TO TOWN

out of the house in pajamas, with her hair in curlers. But as she awaited aid, she was struck by the openness and generosity of Glen Echoans. Several people, though unable to help in a substantive way, stopped by to offer sympathy, share their own misadventures in that weird little parking lot, and check on her wellbeing. Her car was eventually freed, she made it to the interview, and she was hooked.

Professionally, Meighan has a lot going on. She is a member of the board of directors for Indivisible, the progressive grassroots movement. She is also on the board of the bipartisan Faith and Politics Institute, founded by John Lewis, which has the mission of inspiring political leaders to reflect and engage with one another for the good of



Mo and Meighan sport their Halloween finery outside their new home on Wellesley.

the nation. She is an advisor to vote.org, which helped register 26 million new voters in the last election cycle through “tech-first” outreach approaches. And this summer, she became active as a volunteer in the massive effort to evacuate Afghan women activists from their country.

Previously, Meighan was president of the Malala Foundation and worked closely with its name-sake and founder, Malala Yousafzai. She was with Malala when she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and—fun fact—has an official copy of the prize in her home! Earlier in her career she assisted celebrities who wanted to use their voices to advocate for causes they care about. She worked for

Bono on the ONE Campaign to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and extreme

poverty in Africa and even toured with U2 in the process. She also toured with Shakira, who has advocated in support of vulnerable children. Of her time in celebrity advocacy, Meighan says she “has a long history of being the nerd in the room with a binder.”

Mo is a sixth grader; you may remember him from his Freddy Mercury costume at the Halloween party. As that

costume suggests, he's into 1970s music, but also electronic music, anime, Pokemon, and building things.

Continuing the musical theme, Meighan also loves to sing. She's sung in church choirs and would love to join up with a local bluegrass band. She's been an active member of progressive church communities (made more difficult lately by Covid).

Oh, and finally, the book! This summer, Meighan and co-author Rachel Vogelstein published *Awakening: #MeToo and the Global Fight for Women's Rights*. It was a *New York Times* Notable Book, with blurbs from both Malala Yousafzai and Hillary Clinton.

See? A little bit glamorous. —ANGELA HIRSCH

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Giving useful gifts is a great way to feel confident that the recipient will be happy with your choice. Here is a list of must-have garden-related gifts.

For those times when your Felco pruning shears are not able to cut thick stems and branches, you need this great hand saw, which is available from an



excellent company: Silky Gomboy Folding Saw 240M Saw from Lee Valley Tools, www.leevalley.com \$52.50. This versatile saw is great for pruning on green or dry wood. It has a 9" long blade, is about 20" long overall when open and 10 1/2" long folded, and comes with a protective storage case. It weighs 9.6 oz. and has a steel handle with textured rubber grips.

Aging can result in stiff or arthritic knees, which makes it harder to get up

HOLLY IN THE IVY

and down while gardening. I might spring for the Deep Seat Garden Kneeler (\$59.95 www.gardeners.com) because it serves as both a bench and a kneeling pad. The pad is cushioned for comfort and it is stable as well as rust resistant. People who use these kneelers love them. If the Deep Seat Garden Kneeler



costs more than you want to spend, you can consider getting this thick pad for kneeling: Toua's Kneeling Pad Thick Extra Large Foam Comfort Kneeling Pad for Work Gardening



Yoga Exercise Garden Knee Pad"), \$12.98 at Amazon. It is 1 1/2 inches thick, 18" x 11".

Since I tend to run through gardening gloves pretty quickly, I am always on the lookout for good gloves that are reasonably priced. My current favorites are Pine Tree Tools Bamboo Gardening Gloves for Women and Men (Amazon, \$13.99). They are breathable



and fit well, so it is easy to do a variety of tasks.

I was given a 40-year-old

bonsai as a gift and was told that the must-use fertilizer comes from Japan. So I tried it and I found it to be so amazing that I now use it on all my potted plants and even on many of my outdoor plants. It seems expensive but you don't need to use much and, believe me, it is well worth it: Japanese Biogold Original Natural Organic Fertilizer Bonsai & Plant Food (900 g, \$38,



Amazon). One of the secrets to its success is the microorganisms that are used with their proprietary fermentation technology. It comes in nuggets that slow-release organic fertilizer and will last 45-50 days. —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**

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December events are all about celebrating our holidays and featuring our great resident artists. Happily, the annual Holiday Art show in the Popcorn and Stone Tower galleries (open Thursdays and Fridays 10 AM-2 PM, and weekends 12-6 PM) is chock full of great creations.

Represented are glass, ceramics, painting, photography, and jewelry. In addition, the Glen Echo Pottery will hold another outdoor market in the Bumper Car Pavilion on December 4.

We are happy that our theater groups continue to offer both new and traditional programs. This has been an especially difficult year for these artists with shutdowns and Covid restrictions. Adventure Theatre and The Puppet Co. will present programs throughout the month of December. Puppet Co.'s 33rd annual performance of the Nutcracker will be back! A special Chanukah celebration includes performances from both of our children's theaters along with a party. We are collaborating with Chabad of Bethesda on this event scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, December 5. See our website for more information and tickets.

Our new musical group in residence, the Washington Revels, will present a series of Christmas concerts in the Spanish Ballroom. This

OUR TOWN PARK



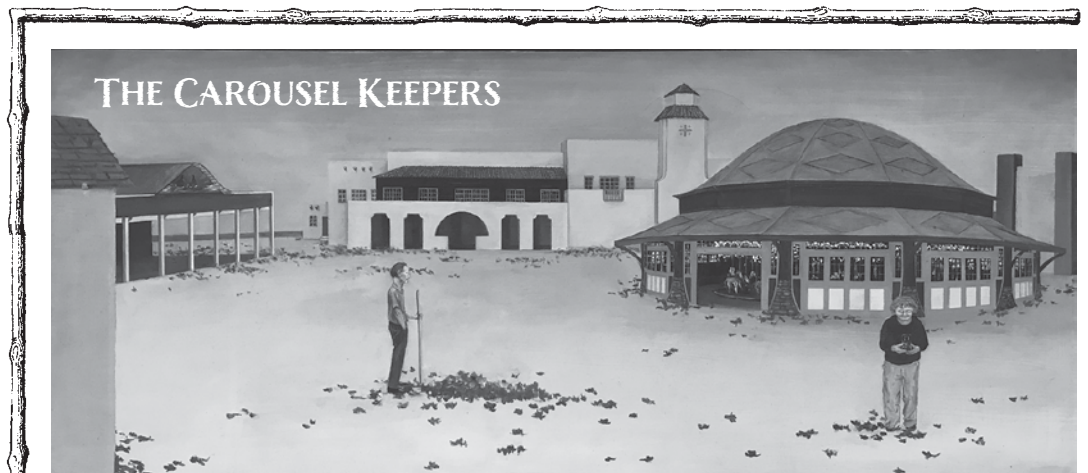
group has been presenting choral programs for 40 years! We are happy to welcome them to the Park.

The Park has begun work on developing a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access policy. The board and

staff are collaborating on this effort and more information will be forthcoming in the new year. We are also hosting a special workshop with the Urban Land Institute. ULI has a long history of working with community groups around the world on planning for long-term resilience. Our visiting panel will tour the facilities, meet with staff and board, and interview a large group of stakeholders. The panel will then provide a report, including recommendations on how to

enhance our programs and facilities for the future. We are honored to have been given a special grant to underwrite this work.

As always, we are grateful for gifts to the Park this year. Like many arts groups, we have had to weather income losses in the past 18 months. A special thank you to Town members who have donated to the 100th anniversary of the Carousel and to those who made gifts to the fountain project. Stop by to see the new trees recently planted! —**MARTHA MORRIS SHANNON, GEPPAC PRESIDENT**



Resident **Carol Barton** recently gifted the Town her 1981 oil painting, *The Carousel Keepers*, which now hangs in the Town Hall meeting room. The painting has been reproduced several times over the years—as a postcard sold from the Glen Echo Gallery, as a promotion for Photoworks, and as a commemorative print. (Debbie Beers has

one of these prints framed in her breakfast room.) Glen Echo's 1921 Dentzel Carousel, the Spanish Ballroom, and the Bumper Car Pavilion are pictured. Noted photographer Tom Wolff, a former town resident and Photoworks artist-in-residence, is depicted with his camera, while Park maintenance worker Stanley Thompson gathers leaves.

Says Carol, "I've always liked this painting. It's been displayed at our farm for years, but it represents an earlier style from that which I'm presently working in, and I think the town hall is a more appropriate home for it." Anyone wishing to see the original painting is welcome to stop by the Town Hall office during regular business hours.

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OUT AND ABOUT

While supporting local merchants is the ideal, the reality is that it can sometimes be hard to find them. The bounty of pop-up markets this holiday season will make it easy to support local artisans while making your gifts unique.

Head to the McLean Community Center December 3 through 5 for the **McLean Holiday Art & Crafts Festival**. On display will be over 80 vendors selling gifts to match any price range on your list. The event will be indoors and \$5 per person, free for kiddos 12 and under.

Transport yourself to a



quintessential German market while you shop in the enchanted **Castle Gardens at Heurich House Museum** in downtown DC. Also being held on December 3 to 5, the museum's annual **Christkindlmarkt** will have over

30 artisans and mark the re-introduction of the museum's namesake beer for tasting. The event is now open for discounted tickets on pre-sale, with \$13 per person tickets at the door.

If you find yourself in **Tenleytown** on December 4, stop by 4748 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, from 10 AM until 5 PM for the neighborhood's **Winter Pop-Up Market** for hyper-local products—from beauty to festive home decor. Then cap the night with discounts running across Tenleytown neighborhood restaurants for **Tenley WinterFest**,

which ends that day. Try one of our family favorites participating in the event, such as Bandit Taco or Le Chat Noir (get the savory crepes!).

Also vying for your shopping attention is the **Dupont Circle Holiday Pop-up** on December 4. Stroll through Dupont where sidewalks will be taken over by more than 75 vendors across Connecticut, P Street, 17th & 18th Streets, NW. The next day, December 5, hop on over to the **Silver Spring Christmas Market and Holiday Craft Fair**, which takes place at Veterans Plaza.

Old Town Alexandria is holding its **Christmas Market and Holiday Craft Show** at John Carlyle Square on December 11. And on December 11 and 12, trendy new DC hotel **The Ven** on Embassy Row aims to have a full weekend of merriment packed with drinks, dining and one-of-a-kind gifts from its curated list of vendors.

—MONA KISHORE

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HAVE YOU HEARD?



Bray Hill and Griffin Finan of Wellesley Circle welcomed **Jordy Stephen Finan** on November 13 at 1 AM. Born at Sibley, he was a healthy 8 pounds 2.5 ounces. They report that they are settling in with Jordy and that their dog Biscuit finds the new addition very interesting.

.....

Former Glen Echo-an **Mickie Simpson**

passed away on October 28 at her home in Bethesda. She and her husband **Dave** moved away from their home on Wellesley Circle just a couple of years ago, so it wasn't long ago that Mickie was pitching "green" articles for *The Echo* or could be seen laughing it up at a ladies night despite dealing with cancer for the last six years. Condolences to Dave, their daughter **Aleksandra**, and son **Arek**. Mickie will be missed by many in Glen Echo. There will be a memorial for her on December 11 at 2 PM at the Roundhouse Theater.



Mickie

It was a sad day last December when one of the 80-year-old **Northern Red Oak trees** towering over the **Lynch's** home at 3 Vassar Circle had to be taken down. But when owner **Peggy** noticed several seedlings sprouting in her yard, she put them in pots and cared for them. A year later, the hardiest of the bunch, now named "Junior," has been planted in the spot where its parent tree once stood. With neighbor **Holly Shimizu's** advice and hus-



The new oak planted by John Lynch and Holly Shimizu

band **John's** shovel work, Peggy says the new tree seems to be healthy and thriving.

IN MEMORIAM

On November 2, **Bernie Edelman** of Wellesley Circle passed away peacefully in his sleep. Bernie was born on December 14, 1946 in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in the housing projects in the Canarsie neighborhood. After college, he was drafted into the Army, ultimately reporting to Vietnam in 1970 as a broadcast specialist, creating news and entertainment programs for the troops. Upon returning to civilian life in Brooklyn, Ber-



nie began a career as a freelance writer and photographer. He co-curated the first Vietnam art exhibit in New York City and was named to the New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission by then-mayor Ed Koch. With the Commission, he

edited the book *Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam*, which is still in publication. After writing and editing his second book, *Centenarians: The Story of the 20th Century by the Americans Who Lived It*, which was published in 1999, Bernie turned to veterans' rights advocacy. He was the Deputy Director for Policy and Government Affairs for Vietnam Veterans of America for nearly 20 years.

Bernie and his wife **Ellen Leary** moved to Glen Echo

with their son **Aiden** about 12 years ago, and Bernie wrote about Ellen's passing for *The Echo* three years ago. He also wrote movingly about his childhood in Canarsie and being a Vietnam veteran. And now his son Aiden, still at their home on Wellesley, writes of his father: "Bernie was beloved by all who were privileged to have known him and will be greatly missed. May we all be as lucky to care about anything at all as much as Bernie cared about his fellow veterans."

Once again, Glen Echo is joining Cabin John and Brookmont to **provide gifts for families** in homeless and transitional housing through **S.O.M.E.** (So Others May Eat). Last year, we had a tremendous



response, and your generosity was greatly appreciated. Because of Covid, S.O.M.E. is requesting GIFT CARDS ONLY to keep everyone safe. Suggested gift cards are from Target, Walmart, Amazon, and VISA. Their goal is to provide each child with a \$50 gift amount or \$150 for a family gift. Gift cards can be dropped off at **Julia Wilson's** home at 7309 University Avenue or you can email sieber.patty@gmail.com if you need the cards to be picked up. The deadline is December 5.

.....
The Santa Run, one of our most beloved holiday events, is scheduled for Friday, December 17. With the assistance of the Glen Echo Fire Department, Santa visits neighborhoods around the area over a few nights in December. Resi-



dent **Gloria Levin**, who is on the fire department board, always makes sure Glen Echo gets a prime slot and keeps us all updated on any changes to the route. As of press time, we are slated for 6:30 PM, so keep an ear out for sirens around then and come out and wave to Santa and his helpers!

.....
The update to Simon Says Yoga temporarily operating in our Town Hall is that its new permanent home will be upstairs at the Glen Echo Shopping Center. The space is still being built by owner Shauna Simon's husband Stefan, who also designed her former space over at Sumner Place. The new place, due to open mid-month, is a bit bigger, with a boutique and a small private room in addition to the main studio space. Shauna and her instructors offer yoga, mat pilates, and Zumba classes both in-person and over Zoom. Class size will continue to be limited and vaccine verification

required. Right now, there is a new student special of three classes for \$29, and with classes continuing at Town Hall into December, it's a good time to start on one of those New Year's resolutions! See the schedule at simonsaysyoga.com.

Real Estate
 Last month, 11 Vassar Circle

GOINGS ON

Town Hall Events
December 12 11 AM–12:30 PM
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Local Events
December 5 1–5 PM,
 Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show
December 17 6:30 PM, Santa Run, subject to change, watch listserv for updates

Glen Echo Park Events
December 4 10 AM–4 PM,
 Pottery Sale in the Bumper Car Pavilion
December 5 2:30–5:30 PM, Chanukah celebration,
December 10–12 and 17–19, The Christmas Revels in the Spanish Ballroom

The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins through Jan. 2
The Nutcracker through January 2

Adventure Theater-MTC www.adventuretheater-mtc.org;
 301-634-2270
Winterfest through January 2




No Ladies Night in December



They Say it's Your

BIRTHDAY!

Dec. 8, **Gryffyn Masullo**, 7
 Dec. 10, **Gabriela Hooper**, 14
 Dec. 11, **Lara T Epanchin**, 7

went on the market listed at \$749,000 and had a pending offer in 4 days. 20 Vassar Circle closed in late October for \$1,599,000. The last new house on Vassar Circle,

No. 10, will go on the market in December. The Wild Bird Centers building sale is still "pending" — commercial sales can have a much longer study period.

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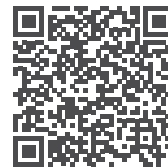
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