



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ JUNE 2022

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

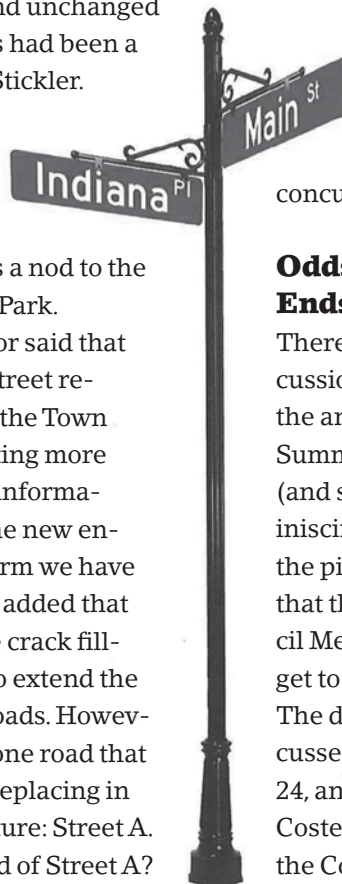
Mayor Costello, Town Manager Beth Stickler, and all four Council Members were present at the May 9 meeting on Zoom. Also in attendance was an intern from the office of our State Delegate Marc Korman. At the start of the meeting, the Council swiftly approved the revised tree ordinance as well as the FY22/23 budget and unchanged tax rate. The Mayor said the budget process had been a smooth one largely due to the work of Ms. Stickler.

Capital Improvement Plan

Council Member Spealman said there was little to update since the last meeting. We have the American Rescue Plan Act funds, a list of upcoming jobs, and five years to spend the money. The Council is ready to move forward with new street signs, so there was discussion about what they should look like. Everyone agreed that the signs should retain some of the charm of the old ones—most likely there will be some scrollwork and an acorn adornment. The Council also dis-

cussed the use of an Art Deco-style font as a nod to the style of the Park.

The Mayor said that regarding street replacement, the Town is still awaiting more conclusive information from the new engineering firm we have on call. She added that repairs, like crack filling, can also extend the life of the roads. However, there is one road that does need replacing in the near future: Street A. Never heard of Street A?



It's the service road that runs parallel to the trolley tracks in the Park's staff parking lot by the big Glen Echo Park sign. Director of GEPPAC Katey Boerner is planning to have the parking lot repaved soon

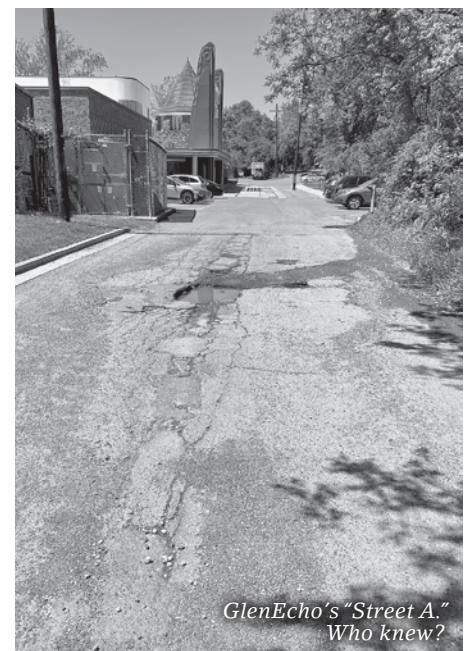
and is in discussions with Mayor Costello about the Town repaving Street A concurrently.

Odds and Ends

There was discussion about the annual Summer Picnic (and some reminiscing about the pie contest that the Council Members get to judge). The date discussed was July 24, and Mayor Costello asked the Council

if we should try a potluck this year instead of California Tortilla. The main issue is that there is a lot of food waste with the caterer, but the Council said we could urge people to bring containers to take home leftovers.

The long-anticipated vegetation walk with Pepco has happened. Council Member Wilson reported that there is just one tree (corner of



GlenEcho's "Street A." Who knew?

THE ECHO

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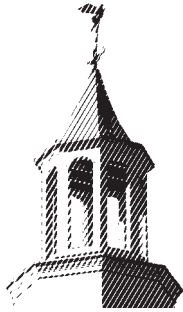
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed.

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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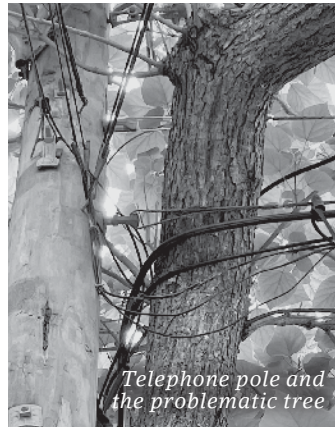
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Next Council Meeting: June 13, 2022, 8 PM



Harvard and Oxford) that they were concerned about. Otherwise, they expect to do some minor pruning.

Greening Urban submitted their updated stormwater report to the Town, and Ms. Stickler passed it on to the Chesapeake Bay Trust as part of our grant reporting. The report will be dis-

cussed at the June 13 Council meeting. Speaking of that meeting, the Council once again considered returning to an in-person gathering. At the end of this meeting, it was agreed that we would next meet in-person upstairs at Town Hall at 8 PM. However, post-meeting it was decided that the Council meeting on June 13 will be on Zoom once again.

Town Expenses

In May, the Town paid \$3,500 to Key Sanitation, \$2,406 to Montgomery County (for salt and health insurance), and \$1,000 to Professional Development Academy (for Town Manager). —EMILY PARSONS



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NEW TO TOWN

Amidst all the hubbub at the center of Vassar Circle in recent months, new neighbors quietly arrived on the outer perimeter as well. In December, Charlotte Taylor Fryar and Eli McCrain moved in at 11 Vassar Circle—one of the earlier houses in town, dating to 1913.



*Charlotte,
Eli, and Annie*

Both Charlotte and Eli are North Carolinians and met as undergraduates at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Charlotte continued her studies there, earning a PhD in American Studies, while Eli earned his law degree at Harvard. They came to DC initially in 2017, with a foray back to North Carolina in 2021 for a “pandemic year.”

Eli is an attorney at Latham and Watkins, specializing in tax law for international matters. He started at the firm as a summer associate and has continued to practice there.

Charlotte is a historian and has focused on social justice movements and political history in North Carolina. She is now writing a book about the racial and natural history of the Potomac River and the communities near Washington. (If you’re wondering, Glen

Echo is mentioned but is not prominent in the draft.) She is also an herbalist and forager for wild foods.

Before moving to Glen Echo, they lived in the District but found themselves coming to this area frequently when they needed a break from the city and a connection with nature. Accompanied by their dog Annie, they

spend a lot of time near the river and have unearthed an impressive array of animal bones and other natural treasures, which are on display at their home.

Charlotte and Eli are already making the house their own and in the process are restoring some of its historical elements. They have removed some hardscaping and an outdoor hot tub and are planning to grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers. They are starting small this year—a herb garden in the front yard—before tackling the larger side yard.

—ANGELA HIRSCH



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HOLLY IN THE IVY

In early May, I organized three days of exploring some of our area's finest gardens for visiting members of The American Horticultural Society. And all I can say is Wow!! The gardens are all fantastic and well worth visiting. In Northern Virginia, we went to Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Green Spring Gardens, and Mount Vernon Distillery and Gristmill. In Washington, DC, our visits were to Hillwood Gardens and Dumbarton Oaks. In Maryland, we visited the gardens

of Glenstone Museum.

Our group found the gardens of Glenstone and Dumbarton Oaks to be the most remarkable but for different reasons. Our Glenstone tour was given by Paul Tukey, Director of Environmental Stewardship. Paul has led the sustainability and carbon reduction efforts for more than eight years. He has been able to demonstrate the possibilities when working organically with native plants and naturalistic designs. Glenstone has a total com-

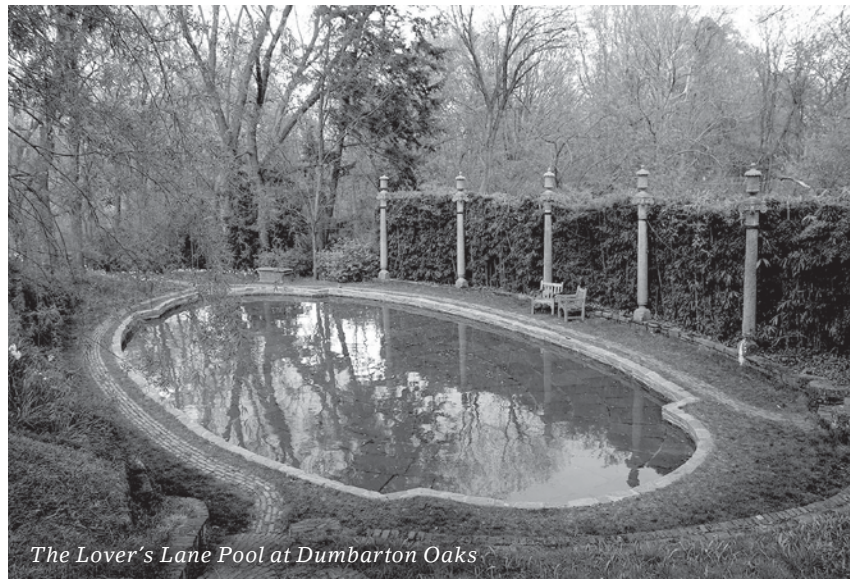


The tranquil integration of art, architecture, and landscape at Glenstone

mitment to the potential of both sustainability and regeneration.

Glenstone gardens are a kind of living classroom. The 300-acre site includes a five-acre organic lawn and native meadows, as well as restored streams, tributaries, and forests. These kinds of gardens can be replicated on a smaller scale for home gardeners. A visitor who is ambling through the gardens will experience the gentle swaying of grasses that soften the feeling of the landscape, stunning trees, long views, and a sense of being in a natural utopia.

Dumbarton Oaks is one of the finest historic landscape gardens in North America. Designed by Landscape Architect Beatrix Farrand in 1921, the gardens were de-



veloped over the next thirty years in collaboration with the owners Mildred and Robert Bliss. The property, including the museum and library, is now owned and operated by Harvard University.

Farrand developed a plan for the hilly site. She creat-

ed a series of garden rooms situated on a variety of terraces. Her designs integrated elements of traditional country estate gardens with many components from Italian and English design. Visitors walking through the gardens will experience small intimate spaces followed by ma-

gestic gardens, which incorporate extraordinary details, including grand trees, lovely garden ornaments, and fabulous views.

Throughout the year, the quality of Dumbarton Oaks' gardens is astounding. My favor-

ite place is Lover's Lane Pool where a visitor enters a small, enclosed amphitheater that includes a shallow pool and a gently curving walkway planted with bulbs and wildflowers. These elements lead you to even more magical gardens. —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**

OUR TOWN PARK

The Park hosted its annual Gala event Carousel Carnival on May 14. Over 300 individuals dined and danced in the Spanish Ballroom and were entertained by stilt walkers and jugglers during the evening. Speakers at the event included honorary chair Representative Jamie Raskin and County Executive Marc Elrich. A highlight of the evening was the honorary proclamation recognizing two individuals from the 1960 sit-in and picketing that led to the integration of the Park. Others

honored at the Gala include Allan Stevens, Christopher Piper, and Mayfield Piper (founders of The Puppet Co.), former State Treasurer Nancy Kopp, and County Council member Andrew Friedson. 2022 is the 20th anniversary of the partnership between Montgomery County and the National Park Service. Looking forward to the future, architect Leo Daly Jr. and photographer Frank Von Riper revealed some concepts for improving resident arts spaces and the natural environment of the Park. In coming months, the Park will be seeking more ideas

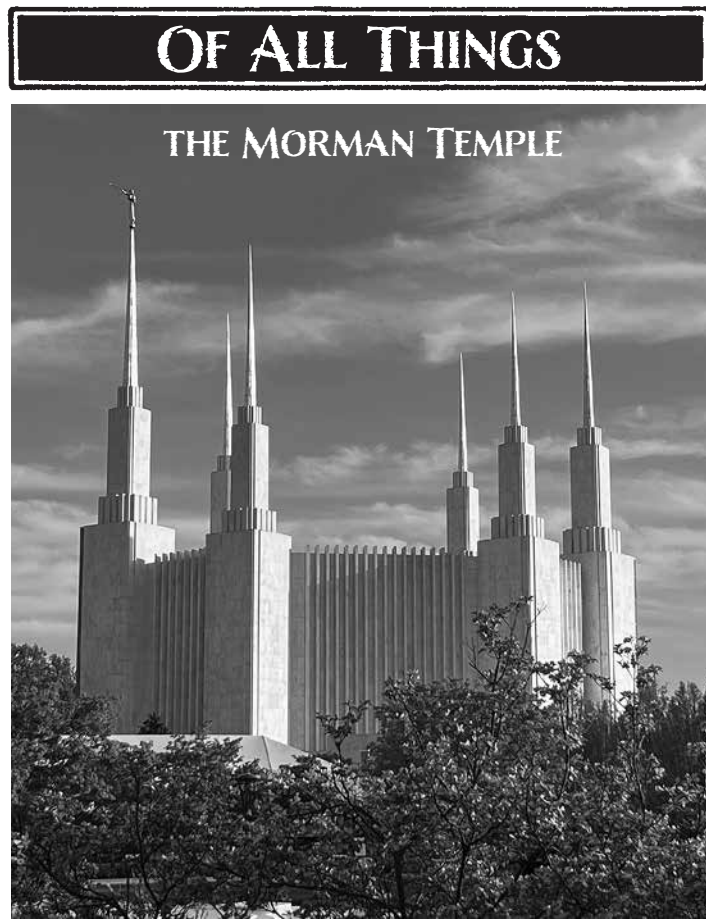


for improving the visitor experience.

A full roster of events will be hosted at the Park this summer, starting with the 40th annual Washington Folk Festival on June 4 and 5. This free festival features music, dance, and other entertainment throughout the Park. Come and enjoy the very fun weekend! Also, be sure to join us on June 11 for Family Pride Day. And the regular series of Thursday evening free concerts will resume in the Bumper Car Pavilion beginning June 16 at 7:30 PM. —**MARTHA MORRIS SHANNON, GEPPAC PRESIDENT**

When I came to DC in the 90s, I was intrigued by the golden-spiked, glaringly white towered structure on a hill that emerges from the trees in the distance as you come around a curve on the Beltway near Kensington. I would not be the first to compare its appearance to a fairytale castle or the Emerald City. Indeed, I remember that a graffiti artist would scrawl “Surrender Dorothy” across a railroad trestle nearby so that from the right angle, the words appeared under the structure, making a reference to a famous scene from the Wizard of Oz. Possibly sacrilegious and certainly a little disrespectful, the graffiti nonetheless may have elicited a chuckle or perhaps an impressed nod to its creativity and cheekiness.

For a long time, that distant glimpse of the Temple was my only awareness of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (Though commonly used, the term “Mormon Church” is, according to the official style guide for the media, “not an authorized title, and the Church discourages its use.”) But there is currently a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, through June 11, to get up close and inside the Temple (tickets available at dctemple.org). The general public is usually not allowed inside, and it’s been almost 50 years since the last open



house. In fact, as I learned, even if you are a member of that faith, you still have to get a special pass to enter it most of the time. However, the Temple recently underwent renovations, and in order to allow workers in, it had to be formally undedicated. Before its rededication, the Church is graciously inviting everyone to come get a peek inside.

On a recent Friday, I decided to satisfy my curiosity and take the family on an outing somewhat different from the usual movie. We were warmly welcomed by well-dressed members of the Church (I confess that without a suit and tie, I felt underdressed relative to our

hosts). Everyone was friendly and patient with questioners – even helping to put on the white booties we had to wear over our shoes to protect the very nice, newly installed carpets.

While the massive white marble walls are impressive and imposing, they also create a notable effect inside the building. Aside from some patterned stained glass in the stairwells, there are no windows in those walls, which left me somewhat disoriented and claustrophobic as we wound our way around inside. The effect was heightened by the fact that every room was very brightly lit, but with completely artificial light.

Large, detailed paintings of bible stories lined the walls, and the tasteful, mid-century modern furnishings couldn’t help but remind me of a very classy hotel.

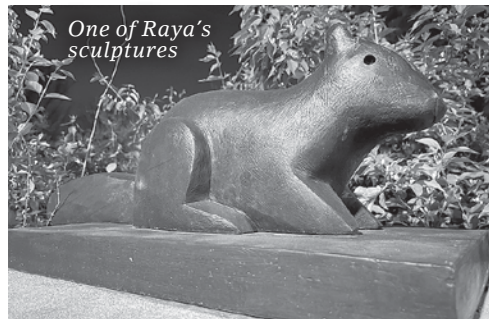
I’ve visited mosques and churches all over the world, and they all have a large, central hall where masses of people can come to worship, so I kept expecting the next entryway would reveal the “main event” of some enormous and elaborate room. But it never came, and when I asked one of the hosts about it, she wasn’t sure quite how to respond. There is a sizeable Assembly Hall where church leaders meet on special occasions, but that wasn’t open to the public. I had assumed that the Temple was just a larger version of local “Chapels” – the place most people of that faith go to worship on a weekly basis. I thought it would be much the way that the National Cathedral is, for the most part, just a bigger, fancier version of our local Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. But it turns out that the Temple actually serves a purpose very different from a regular place of worship; it’s there primarily for special ceremonies that each have their own special place within the temple.

We saw an enormous baptismal pool resting atop 12 stone oxen, an “Instruction Room” that looked somewhat like a small theatre, a room for members of the

Church to change into their required vestments, the impressive chandeliers of the “Celestial Room” for quiet contemplation, and several “Sealing Rooms” for weddings. In that last room, one of the more elderly hosts, who was near to his 49th wedding anniversary, teared up a bit as he described how marriage is not “until death do us part” in his faith, but rather for all eternity. I was

already sufficiently impressed by the 49 years, but it was lovely that he was moved by having the opportunity to share that with us. “We’re all brothers and sisters,” he reminded, as we thanked him for his time.

After the tour, we stopped at a quirky nearby restaurant, Pacci’s Trattoria, for dinner and then drove a couple minutes up the road



to the Forest Glen Metro Station. Just a little way up and across the street from the Metro, we made a pilgrimage to the nearby pe-

destrian walkway under the beltway to see the dozen or so small animals that our late neighbor Raya Bodnarchuk was commissioned to install there. They were instantly recognizable as her distinctive style, and the kids enjoyed the quick stop to visit her lasting legacy. —DAN SPEALMAN

OUT AND ABOUT

As we settle into summer, the heat and humidity are a reminder that warmer days are ahead for the entire globe. What better way to think about how we can curb our impact on Mother Nature than through a festival that celebrates the plant-based and sustainable lifestyle in nearby Bethesda.

Join the **Planet Bethesda Festival** on Sunday, June 5, in Elm Street Park from noon to 6 PM for a sampling of sustainable food vendors, a main stage with education and inspirational speakers, music performers, and a pie-eating contest sponsored by Red Banana Bakery and open to anyone to enter.

Slather on the sunscreen and bring a lawn chair to enjoy two days of international folk music throughout the weekend of June 4–5 at the **Washington Folk Festival** in our beloved park. After a two-year hiatus, this year brings talented



ensembles from across five continents all to perform on multiple stages from noon to 7 PM.

Closer to the political epicenter of DC, the **Congressional Cemetery** has become a green space enjoyed by many. But few may know that it also wins acclaim for being the only known cemetery in the world with an **LGBTQ section**. On June 25, in honor of Pride Month, join the property’s docent for a walking tour to get the history of this specially marked burial area.

Across the region, this summer brings the return

of many **outdoor movie nights**. There’s almost one for every day of the week: Tuesdays in Adams Morgan, Wednesdays in Rockville and NoMa, Thursdays at the MLK monument and Mosaic District, second Fridays at the Union Market Drive-in, last Fridays in Tysons Corner, and Sundays on the National Harbor. Just to name a few!

For a more thought-provoking outdoor cinema experience, head to the REACH at Kennedy Center to watch the documentary **Imagining the Indian** on June 30 at 8:30 PM. This film explores the con-

text in which Native Americans became the icons for so many sports teams and what the journey to eradicating stereotypes has meant for the affected communities. While this event is free, it requires advance ticketing, which opens on June 15.

For all you early-risers, visit the REACH on June 24 to embrace the day with an early morning event called **Daybreaker Nature Tour** starting at 6 AM. The event will commence with yoga accompanied by live music looking to bring the collective group into harmony with the earth, followed by an outdoor dance party. Paid tickets are required for this three-hour-long experience with the option to hit snooze and show up an hour late for a discounted rate and only partake in the post-yoga dance. Just don’t show up with a plastic water bottle—you will be kicked out! —MONA KISHORE

It's hard to imagine that many Montgomery County communities—where we live, work, and attend to daily life—were once resort escapes for DC city dwellers. A day at country hotels, inns, and parks included nature and a good meal.

From Washington's earliest days, the Potomac attracted sightseers. In *Ambitious Appetites*, Barbara G. Carson recounts an outing hosted by Colonel John Tayloe and his wife Ann, who lived in one of DC's most impressive homes, The Octagon House. The party drove out to the falls: "taking guns and fishing rods, everyone went their own way after their different amusement until three o'clock when ... we dined on boards laid upon the rocks & seated upon the rocks." Enslaved women cooked a menu of "fish broiled on hot stones ... cold meats, bread and cheese and oceans of wine, punch & brandy." They were entertained by a military band and enjoyed the "wild and romantic" landscape.

IN OUR MIDST

SOME GLEN ECHO FOOD HISTORY

Even under construction, the C&O Canal was an appealing outing. Canal boat day-trippers could enjoy "the scenery of the contiguous country, and the great work itself," including the cranes and cut stone used to build the Washington Aqueduct. The earliest Canal hospitality was offered in 1831 when

ular through the decades. Old Angler's Inn opened in 1860 and for a time served as a general store and post office. In *Days at Cabin John*, Edith Armstrong describes driving out the Conduit Road (later MacArthur Boulevard) in the 1920s and stopping at "the Anglers Club for a drink of its deli-



the lockkeeper's house at Great Falls was expanded into a tavern called Crommelin House, after the Dutchman who set up its financing. Country inns proved pop-

ular through the decades. Old Angler's Inn opened in 1860 and for a time served as a general store and post office. In *Days at Cabin John*, Edith Armstrong describes driving out the Conduit Road (later MacArthur Boulevard) in the 1920s and stopping at "the Anglers Club for a drink of its deli-

ing was made of hand-hewn beams from the keels of abandoned canal barges.

As it is today, the Canal was also a retreat for nature lovers. President Grover Cleveland made fishing excursions to Pennyfield's lock where George and Martha Pennyfield ran a boardinghouse. Cleveland was an avid hunter and fisherman, and after he retired from the presidency wrote a book, *Fishing and Shooting Sketches*, in which he defends fishermen from charges of laziness and lying, decries the habit of shooting birds too small to eat, and declares it unsportsmanlike to shoot a sitting rabbit.

One of the largest visitor attractions along the Canal started out as one of the smallest. German immigrants, Joseph and Rosa Bobinger came to the area, drawn by work on the Cabin John Bridge and aqueduct, where he signed on as a stonecutter. Rosa set up a refreshment stand for workers where she sold cigars, snuff, cold drinks,



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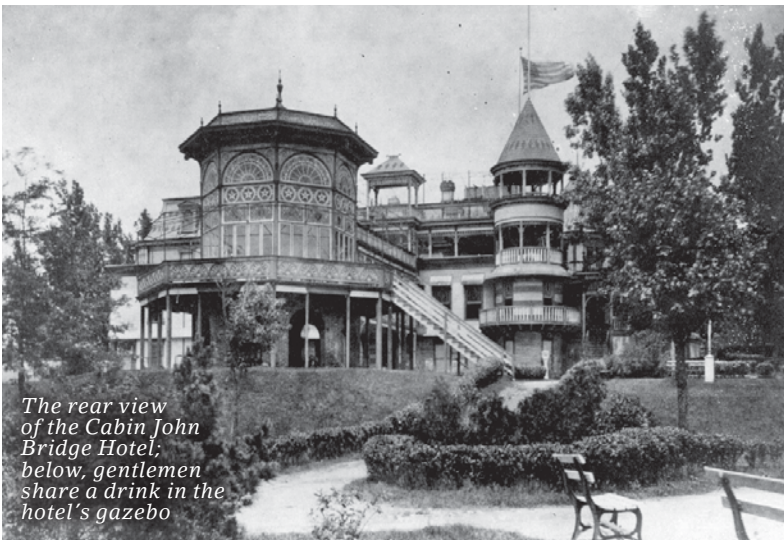
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The rear view of the Cabin John Bridge Hotel; below, gentlemen share a drink in the hotel's gazebo



and pies. She eventually expanded into a boarding house, renovated from a construction shed.

Joseph had worked as a head waiter and in 1870, with a Riggs Bank loan, the couple bought 100 acres on the west side of the bridge and built the 25-room Cabin John Bridge Hotel. The

real draw for day-trippers were Rosa's dinners, which cost \$1.00 and featured a specialty—Chicken a la Maryland: fried chicken in

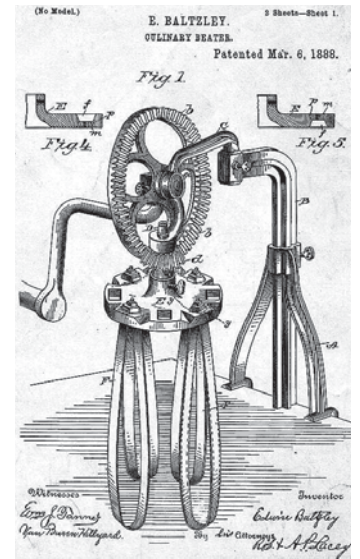
a brown gravy, topped with bacon and served with corn fritters. On the menu were typical, Victorian-era dishes—oysters, potted grouse, sweetbreads—along with local specialties like buttermilk biscuits and small-mouth bass, which were held fresh in an enclosure in the creek until they were

ready to be served with new potatoes and tartar sauce. The hotel served wines from John Reading's vineyards along Cabin John Creek and had a rathskellar that developed a risqué reputation.

Food also influenced real estate development. Edwin Baltzley worked as a government clerk but was also an inventor. His "culinary beater" allowed cooks to easily beat eggs and whip cream and earned a fortune of \$250,000, today equivalent to \$12 million. He and his brother decided to establish themselves as "dealers in real estate."

The Baltzleys built a Chautauqua community with an educational program of uplifting lectures and performances. Glen Echo Park was advertised as a place with "No objectionable characters. No spirituous liquors." They encouraged sales by establishing the Glen Echo Railroad

Company with a connection to Tenleytown and a café called PA-TOW-O-MECK. It opened in July 1890 with ceremonies and senators. The well-furnished, rustic-style log building drew customers who were charmed into buying land.



Up and down the canal there are remnants of these businesses and Glen Echo still feels like a distinct place in the country and the County. —CLAUDIA KOUSOULAS AND ELLEN LETOURNEAU

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.....

Matthew Springuel, youngest son to Edie and Renny on Vassar Circle, returned home in April after spending 11 months in Jordan with his Maryland National Guard unit. He is returning to his job as a contractor with the Defense Department and moved to his own apartment in May.

.....

Former Glen Echo resident **Melinda Henneberger** recently won the Pulitzer for her *Kansas City Star* columns on a police detective accused of rape. Melinda, her husband **Bill Turque**, and their kids

HAVE YOU HEARD?



Melinda Henneberger was with colleagues at the Sacramento Bee when she got the news about her Pulitzer prize win on May 9.

Della and Connor, moved from their home on Oxford Road in 2017. Melinda is now a columnist for *The Sacramento Bee*.

.....

Even aside from the **Folk Fest** extravaganza, Glen Echoans will have a lot of live music to enjoy at the Park this summer. The regular **Thursday concert series** is back! Stroll over on Thursday evenings for music and dancing in the Bumper Car Pavilion. Get an ice cream, ride the carousel—enjoy summer! This year the Washington Conserva-

tory is adding its own line up of free **Casual Concerts** every first Friday. The first on June 3 will feature pianist Chengcheng Yao.

.....

Despite a persistent drizzle, the annual **Glen Echo Plant Exchange** was one of the most successful to date, with many neighbors in rain gear sharing both plants and gardening information. **Holly Shimizu** brought a truckload of plants that her husband **Osamu** dug out of their garden in Lewes, and others brought a wide va-

riety of offerings ranging from rosemary and wood asters to ajuga, irises, and cacti. With all the rain this year, our newly planted gardens should be thriving. Thank you to all who participated! —CAROL BARTON

.....

Glen Echo's **Independence Day parade** will return this year in all its kooky small-town glory on July 4 at 10:30 AM. Festoon your bike, stroller, wagon, or car in red, white, and blue, or cheer on the paraders from a porch or sidewalk. Musically inclined? Join the band! All ages and instruments—truly—have a place in our band. Contact me to join—angela.h.hirsch@gmail.com.



The parade route starts at the pocket parks at Princeton and University and loops around Vassar Circle. We'll end with an epic water balloon fight and snacks at the pocket parks. Come out and celebrate! —ANGELA HIRSCH

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RICHARD LEGGIN
ARCHITECTS

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Miles Wilson

Ella Hambrecht

Gevvie Johnson

CLASS OF 2022

We wish all Glen Echo graduating seniors the best of luck in their next endeavors!

Miles Wilson of University Avenue graduated this month from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. He was a double major in business and philosophy.

Ella Hambrecht of Princeton Avenue is graduating from Whitman and will be attending Northeastern University in Boston. She is in the NU.in program and will begin her freshman year in Rome.

Gevvie Johnson of Princeton Avenue is graduating from Whitman and going to The University of Pittsburgh next year.

Gabriela Hooper, graduating from Little Flower School, is headed to high school at Holy Child. And a very large group of Glen Echoans will be moving from elementary school to middle school! Our rising sixth graders are **Colby Epanchin, Greta Hirsch, Lucas Masullo, Cléo Moreau, Manoé Moreau, Kate Roddy, and Declan Spealman.**

They Say it's Your **BIRTHDAY!**
June 4, **Jaelyn Fiedler, 2**

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EXXON

6729 Goldsboro Road

Dana Novosel
Service Manager

A.S.E. Certified
MD Inspector

(301) 229-8666
FAX: **(301) 229-0131**

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 8–10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents

Local Events

June 4 10 AM–4 PM, Flea Market, The Shops at Summer Place

June 11 9 AM–12 PM, The Grateful Shred, Clara Barton Community Center



Glen Echo Park Events

June 3 7:30 PM, Casual Concert at Washington Conservatory, free

June 4 11 AM–4 PM, Outdoor Marketplace

June 4 and 5 12–7 PM, Washington Folk Festival

June 11 11 AM–2 PM, Pride Family Day

.....
Summer Concert Series Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the Bumper Car Pavilion, free

June 16 Texas Chainsaw Horns

June 23 Washington Folk Festival Concert

June 30 CarpathiaDC, folk dance

July 7 Ampersand

July 14 U.S. Marine Band Acoustic Ensemble

July 21 Adrian Duke, New Orleans-style piano

July 28 U.S. Marine Band Ragtime

August 4 TolumiDE, Afro-pop

August 11 TBD

August 18 Mike Kamuf's Little Big Band

September 1 U.S. Marine Band Free Country



.....
The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380



Little Red Riding Hood and the Three Little Pigs

June 2–July 3

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

Adventure Theater MTC

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

Fantastagirl and the Math Monster

June 19–August 21

I live, *work*, and
have grown my
family here.



KELLY BOHI
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