



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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The first in-person Council meeting since the pandemic began, held upstairs at Town Hall, was a small one. All four Council Members attended, though Council Member Spealman was on Zoom. Mayor Costello led the meeting, but Town Manager Beth Stickler was out sick. No residents attended, but the Town’s auditor from LSWG, Eva Webb, was there to present her findings, and Zach Poe, an intern from Delegate Marc Korman’s office, came as well.

Town Audit

Once again, the Town had a clean audit according to Ms. Webb. The process was smooth thanks in large part to the diligence of Ms. Stickler. Fiscal Year 2022 was a good one for the Town. Glen Echo has \$1,876,000 in assets (cash, investments, property), and our net position increased by \$171,046 in FY22. Spending was down thanks to conservative budgeting and coming under budget for legal and engineering services,



which had been high during the years of the Vassar Circle development. Income was up due to solid property taxes, the Chesapeake Bay Trust grants, and Town Hall rentals. And all this is even before considering the federal funds from the American Rescue Plan in the amount of \$267,000, which will be spent in part on street signs, HVAC for Town Hall, and stormwater management.

Council Member Kishore asked whether we should consider a CD for investing

a portion of our over \$1M in cash on hand, and the Council and Mayor agreed that might be smart right now. Mayor Costello and Ms. Stickler will look into it.

As in past years, Ms. Webb noted that a local government with a single employee has difficulty with the “segregation of duties.” That is, the person cutting the checks should not also be signing the checks. However, the Town has made some changes, and Ms. Stickler no longer signs checks, and the Mayor said the next step is to stop using paper checks all together, making it easier for multiple signers to access the invoices and approve the checks.

Odds and Ends


To be ADA compliant, Mayor Costello is hiring A.B. Viers to restripe the handicap spot in the parking lot behind Town Hall at a cost of about \$1,000. The Post Office and Council all agree.

LEAF PICK-UP SCHEDULE

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MONDAYS:
November 14, 21, 28
December 5, 19

Leaves should be raked to the curb.



Council Member Wilson gave the update from the recent Livable Town Committee meeting. In addition to an October Minnehaha Creek clean up, they are planning two charity drives in the winter. On MLK Day, they will organize a resident service project, possibly for Greentree Shelter, packing up toiletry bags or something similar. And Winterlude, on February 10 (rain date February 11), will once again be a fundraiser for Greentree.

THE ECHO

Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call the Town Manager). Copies of *The Echo* are on file at Little Falls Library. Also provided online at www.glenecho.org. Total circulation: 190.

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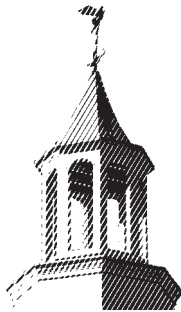
DISTRIBUTION Janice Henderson, Maire Hewitt, Aaron Hirsch, Jan Shaut

CIRCULATION Julie Lull

Next Deadline: November 20, 2022

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: November 14, 2022, 7:30 PM

After hearing from the shelter that gifts of money take a long time to make it to them, the Winterlude organizers plan to use the funds raised to buy the goods they need—towels, sheets, and pull-ups. One other update to Winterlude: After two years of struggling to light luminaries along Harvard Avenue, the organizers have decided to give LEDs a shot and plan to have more lighting strung up along the street.

Ms. Kishore reported that there would be a presentation by Compost Crew at the Town Hall in October for interested residents. She also said that Tree Montgomery had come to Town (without letting Town Hall know) and their assessment is that they can plant three mature trees along the right of way between Bryn Mawr and Harvard Avenues. Ms. Kishore needs to confirm with resident Holly Shimizu about where the planned dry swale will be installed, so the two projects don't collide. Tree Montgomery said that the right of way beyond

Bryn Mawr is overseen by Maryland's Department of Transportation, which apparently has its own tree-planting initiative.

A budget amendment was requested by the Mayor and passed by the Council to increase spending by close to \$4K for the repair of the elevator. Mr. Spealman asked if they should consider replacing the conveyance. The Mayor said that it is really only used about four times a year, and if they limit use to people who need it, rather than, say, caterers carting up equipment, the maintenance of the current elevator should be fine. She added that the cost to replace the elevator was last quoted at about \$250K.

There was a lengthy discussion about whether to hire Mr. Omelette for the Holiday Party or to do the coffee bar again and have residents take turns manning a pancake station. No decision was reached at the meeting, but subsequently it was decided to use Mr. Omelette as in past years. It

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sounds like the party will most likely be held both in Town Hall and on the lawn in front.

A few updates: The County will not switch to flashing lights earlier in the evening at the intersection by the Irish Inn. However, more responsive sensors are scheduled to be installed. Irish Inn owners and GEPPAC discussed parking issues at their last meeting with no clear decisions made. The Mayor is awaiting proofs of the new street signs from Shannon-Baum Signs and bids for the street repair work at the two corners of Columbia Avenue.

Police Report

Council Member Stiglitz reported that there is a new Police Captain, Amy Daum. He also said that it has been a very long time since the Police Advisory Committee has met. The Council discussed a few general police matters—incidents in Glen Echo Park and the ongoing response as well as the importance of locking cars in Town—that have come up recently.

Town Expenses

In October, the Town paid \$3,500 to Key Sanitation, \$2,500 to LSWG, \$2,346 to Maple Hill Lawn & Garden, and \$1,482 to PNC Bank. —EMILY PARSONS

Caroline Lacey has been a regular presence in Glen Echo for a couple years, but she's making it official—she closed on the purchase of her home, 6105 Harvard Avenue, in October.

Caroline was a dear friend of the late, much adored longtime Glen Echo resident Raya Bodnarchuk, and she purchased the house from Raya's estate. Their friendship brought Caroline to Glen Echo. The two met at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, where Caroline was a graduate student in new media and Raya a professor. After graduating, Caroline moved to El Salvador, but stayed in touch with Raya, visiting her whenever she returned to the United States on business or to visit her family (her father lives in Bannockburn).

Then came Covid. In March 2020, Caroline was preparing for a work trip to New York and D.C. Hearing the news of the rapidly spreading virus, she moved her trip up and packed a few extra things, just in case. As it happened, El Salvador closed its borders while she was on the plane to New York. Like it or not, she would be staying in the United States.

Living with her parents in Bannockburn, Caroline soon added Raya's needs to her weekly grocery trips.

NEW TO TOWN

Raya became part of her Covid bubble, and when Raya became ill and had surgery in 2020, Caroline moved in with her. In addition to care and companionship, Caroline offered



experience in curation and archiving. She helped Raya make plans for her estate and her incredible art collection, which includes her own and that of her father, also an artist. Caroline and Raya undertook the daunting task of cataloging, organizing, and sorting a lifetime of treasures. Raya had clear ideas of where she wanted her artwork to go, but also at one point, mused, "I wish I could take it all with me."

Thanks to their efforts, Raya's art collection and estate is now held in an art trust that is responsible for future exhibitions and any sales of her work. Caroline is involved in plans for the first show of Raya's work since her death, at Gallery Neptune and Brown in Washington. Other pieces

will go to collecting institutions and private collections. When she purchased the house, Caroline happily agreed to keep Raya's pieces—like the iconic wooden statues on the front porch—while the trust continues to place artwork.

Professionally, Caroline has her own business, offering archive and collections services, including estate planning, cataloging, organizing, arranging storage, and developing data systems for private collections. Caroline explained that for

private collectors, archiving "makes meaning of the work." Previously, Caroline owned a contemporary art gallery in El Salvador.

She grew up in Montgomery County, graduating from Walter Johnson High School and attending University of Maryland before graduate school at the Corcoran. A photographer, she has lived in France and traveled the world.

Caroline did eventually return to El Salvador to pack up her home and retrieve her cat, Francisco *Gatorno*,* with whom she sometimes takes nighttime walks around town (Francisco's machismo has gotten him in trouble before).

—ANGELA HIRSCH

**Bilingually, punnily named after the Cuban-Mexican telenovela star Francisco Gattorno.*



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LEGGIN**
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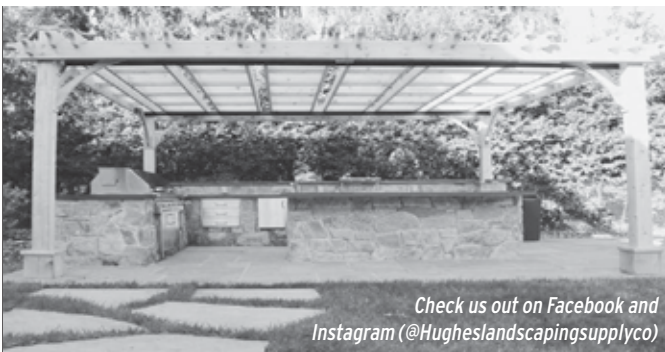
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By now, you have most likely brought inside any tender plants you want to keep for next year. Be sure to clean plants with a damp cloth to get rid of any insects. Once you bring them in, you may find that some are losing their leaves as they adjust to their new environment. It is a shock for plants to come inside and the transition often results in leaf drop, especially on Ficus plants. Once plants are adapted to their new home, they should be fine. Do not place your plants too close to direct heat and dry air or in a cold and drafty area. They need adequate sunlight, which is most often a sunny south or west window. Dropping leaves can also be the result of a plant in need of repotting or one that is suffering from overwatering. Since shorter days produce less light and often cooler temperatures, your plants will tend to need less watering. Water temperature should not be too cold or too warm; room temperature is ideal.

Humidity is an impor-

HOLLY IN THE IVY



tant consideration for most plants. A typical home humidity is around 10-20% but many plants prefer a humidity around 50%. There are two good options for increasing the humidity in your house. One is adding gravel in the bottom of the

plant saucer, and the second is keeping a spritzer handy so you can add moisture to the leaves with ease.

It's a good idea to think about a plant's native habitat. For example, is it from a tropical rain forest filled with humidity and shade or

is it from a dry desert with abundant sunlight and little rain? Be sure to use the plant's natural environment as a guide to the care given to individual plants. Also, grouping plants according to their needs makes it easier to care for them.

The little flying insects that might be around indoor plants are fungus gnats, tiny short-lived flies. They lay their eggs in the top couple of inches of the soil. Once the eggs hatch into larvae, they feed on the soil's organic matter and fungus. In a couple of weeks, the flying gnats appear. Most often they show up when we water our plants too much. Here are some ways to get rid of them:

- allow the soil to dry out before next watering;
- get rid of any standing water in the plant saucer;
- try hanging sticky trap near the fungus gnats; or
- mix 3% hydrogen peroxide (1 part) with water (4 parts), spray on the top layer of soil, or water the plant with this combination.

—HOLLY SHIMIZU

NOVEMBER GARDENING TIPS

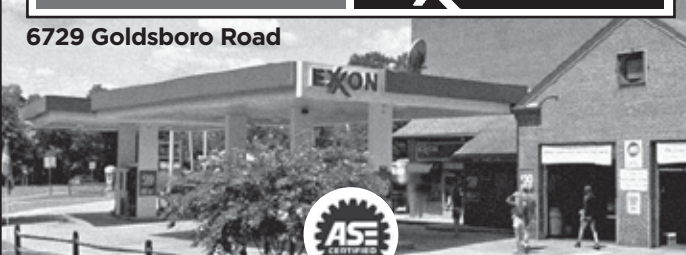
- If you still have leaves in your garden, save them and use as either mulch or for compost.
- Plant spring blooming bulbs.
- Winterize hoses and turn off water sources.
- Evaluate your garden—what do you want to change, remove, transplant for next year?
- Gather greens from outdoor evergreens to make centerpieces, arrangements in outdoor containers, or wreath-making.

PHOTO: VADIM KAIPOV / UNSPLASH

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OUT AND ABOUT

Just north of Catholic University, tucked away in an unassuming neighborhood, sits Abraham Lincoln's home turned museum. The **Lincoln Cottage** has recently had a bit of a revival by hosting a slew of events to bring in visitors. This fall, it's holding monthly movie nights on its lawn. Enjoy the beautiful backdrop on November 4 with a nighttime showing of *Inside Out* beginning at 7 PM. This event is free, but registration is encouraged. For a true inside look into the cottage, attend the **Two Faces Comedy** series November 15 for a comedy show that

pays homage to the satirical character of its legendary former resident.

While you may not be a dragon, you probably still love tacos. Head north rather than south to the 2022 **Taco Heaven Festival** in Baltimore on November 5 and 6 to sample over 25 taco vendors. Stay through the afternoon to enjoy piñatas, tequilas, and more ... olé!

For three days, November 10-12, shop across eight different museum and art organizations at the **Strathmore's 32nd Annual Museum Shop Holiday Market**. On November 12, head to **Pike & Rose** for

the first annual **Small Biz Bazaar** from 11 AM to 3 PM featuring over 15 local vendors. This event will be hosted in the ballroom of the Canopy hotel.

For its 19th year, the **Fairmont** in Georgetown will pull out all the stops for its **Christmas-tree lighting** in the courtyard of the hotel. Santa Clause will be taking requests, carols will be sung, and a canine mascot will be present to guide many more festivities. Stop by at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, November 29. To pass forward the holiday cheer, bring along a gift for kids aged 5 to 18 that will be do-

nated to Horton's Kids.

After a bit of a hiatus, the **DC Beer Festival** returns to take over **Nats Park** with dozens of beer, food, and fun on November 5. Tickets start at \$50 and are sold for two different time periods throughout the day to keep crowds down. If that's sounding a bit steep or you're looking to have your kids or pups tag along, then consider an alternative at McLean's hip **Shipgarten** from 1 to 6 PM for a **Thanksgiving Beer Festival** on November 26. This event will have over 50 beers and wines, plus ample games and food for all. —MONA KISHORE



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It's that time of year again when studios release their best products to try to hook some Oscar attention, and the prestige hopefuls are arriving weekly now. Here are some tips to pre-game with potential nominees.

The Avalon: Some of the most likely nominees are playing here this month, including *Tár*, the story of a complicated female conductor. It will likely put Cate Blanchett in the pole position for Best Actress in what I hear is perhaps the performance of her career. The team behind dark comedy *In Bruges* (Director Martin McDonagh with Actors Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson) reunite for what looks to be an even darker comedy about friendship gone awry in a small town: *The Banshees of Inisherin* opens Nov 4. Lastly, if Alfonso Cuarón can do it with *Roma* and Kenneth Branagh with *Belfast*, you can be sure that Steven Spielberg's slightly fictionalized coming of age movie is a sure bet for a Best Picture nom. *The Fa-*

THE CINEMANIAC



The Banshees of Inisherin

blemans, which opens November 23, is a tender look at a family that's unhappy in its own way, as well as exploring how film can help us better understand and cope with such trials.

E Street Cinema: Jeff Bridges has an understated but brilliant and varied career, and Landmark is putting out a retrospective of some of his best work. You can catch the Director's Cut of the essential *Last Picture Show* (11/1); the oddly compelling *Starman* (11/8); the sad, funny, and resonant *Fisher*

King, which is one of my favorites from the 90s (11/15); the Coen Brothers at their comedic best in *The Big Lebowski* (11/22); and the rough and tumble western, *True Grit* (11/29).

The AFI: It's strange to think that for a good chunk of cinema history, films without recorded dialogue were hugely popular. And the thing we often forget is that silent films were never actually silent—they were always accompanied by live musicians who provided the soundtrack



The Big Lebowski

and effects. AFI's annual Silent Cinema Showcase this month is a unique way to experience what it was really like to see a silent film, as each showing is accompanied by live performers. If you're not sure what to choose, you can't go wrong with the Buster Keaton showcase November 6.

Literally Everywhere Else: It may not seem like Oscar-bait but remember that the first Black Panther movie was nominated for Best Picture (the first time for a superhero movie) and justly won Oscars for its exquisite Production Design and Costumes. Director Ryan Coogler turned out probably the best Marvel movie yet, and I'm excited to see if he can avoid the sophomore slump on his second go around (this time, tragically, without his departed leading man Chadwick Boseman). *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, with a new, undisclosed character in the title role, is set to debut November 10. No spoilers please! —DAN SPEALMAN

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Save the date for this year's annual **Holiday Party!** Come to Town Hall on Saturday, December 10, to enjoy the eggs and waffles breakfast brought to you by Mr. Omelette. Stay for the treat of chatting with neighbors and some gingerbread house decorating. Food donations for Man-na Food Center will be accepted. There will be at least some tables set up outside.

.....

Longtime Glen Echo resident (over 90 years!) **Nancy Long** celebrated her 94th birthday on October 17. Neighbors **Gloria Levin** and **Debbie Beers**



Nancy at 90

visited her at her nearby memory-care home. They came laden with cards and

HAVE YOU HEARD?



The Minnehaha Creek clean up on October 15 was a big success.

gifts from residents, which she loved going through—Gloria even plans to get Nancy a Glen Echo t-shirt created by the Hirsches. The good news is that Nancy seems to be thriving in her new home even if she still misses being in Glen Echo very much.

Holiday shopping alert! On Saturday December 3, from 9 AM to 5 PM at Town Hall, resident **Carol Barton** will be selling a large number of paintings, decorative papers, and other art supplies to make room for new work in her studio. There will be a number of small 5 x 7 inch

paintings for \$38 each, several larger works, and decorative papers from all over the world. Buy the gifts and the paper to wrap them up in!

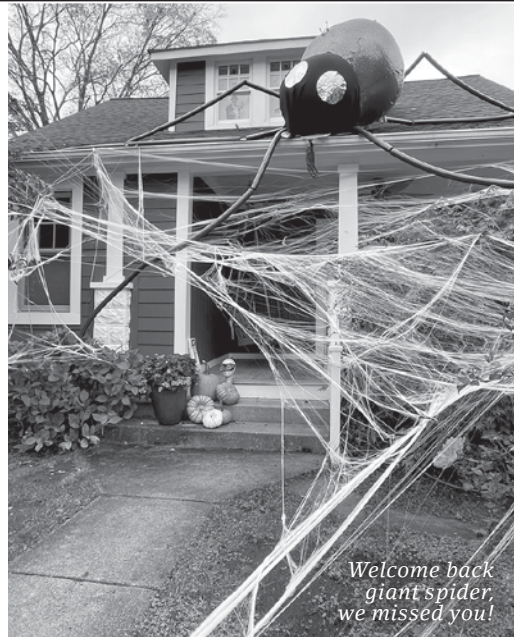
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Reminder to federal employees: Consider listing **Glen Echo Fire Department** as a recipient for your donation to the Combined Federal Campaign (#16733). GEFD is raising more than \$400K for a new ambulance!

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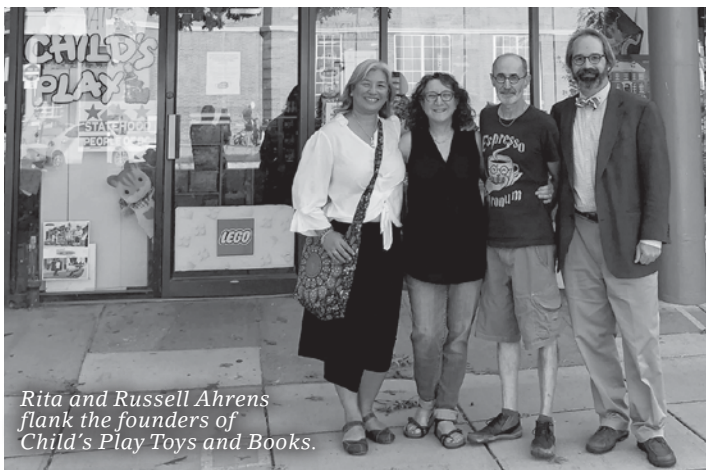
On September 1, Bryn Mawr residents **Rita and Russell Ahrens** became the proud owners of the beloved, area toy stores **Child's Play Toys and Books**. Says Rita: "It's always been a dream of mine to retire as an artist, with my own bookstore and art cafe, so we jumped at the opportunity to take over

SIGHTS OF THE SEASON



Welcome back giant spider, we missed you!





Rita and Russell Ahrens flank the founders of Child's Play Toys and Books.

Child's Play, which we've been shopping at for over 16 years." This holiday season consider visiting their locations in Chevy Chase, McLean, or Arlington or shopping on their website

www.childsplaytoysand-books.com to support a now-hyper-local business!

Real Estate

5 Vassar Circle closed last month for \$1,115,000.

OUR TOWN PARK

Working with Montgomery County and National Park Service, we are moving forward on a few critical facility updates. The NPS is preparing to do needed infrastructure upgrades and improve accessibility to the Clara Barton House. The Park staff and board are working with NPS on needed improvements to host arts programs and offices. Construction on the house will begin in the fall of 2023. Work is projected to take two years. The current plan is to have shared space between the Park arts programs and the NPS preservation and interpretation of the history of the building.

An architectural firm is now under contract to do

the condition assessment of the Spanish Ballroom, and we are looking for funding to support an assessment of the Crystal Pool ruins. Can we use that space for programs such as an amphitheater? No timeline has been set until funding is available. We would consider a temporary upgrade to the space. Repairs to the upper parking lot are still on the schedule for spring 2023.

On our updated website is a new page that outlines our long-range planning ideas, including videos shown at the Gala in May and summary recommendations of the Urban Land Institute panel visit to the Park last spring. Included is a form for individuals to add their ideas for site improvements. —MARTHA MORRIS SHANNON

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 8-10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents



Looking Ahead:

December 3 9 AM-5 PM, Carol Barton painting and decorative paper sale

December 10 Annual Holiday Party, 10-11:30 AM

Glen Echo Park Events

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

The 34th Annual Nutcracker Nov. 25-Jan. 1

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

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Nov. 13, **Jordy Finan**, 1

Nov. 18, **Kate Dobson**, 14

Nov. 19, **Cristina Hooper**, 12

Nov. 19, **Caroline Koonce**, 13

