

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



August 2001

EMERGENCY AT POST OFFICE

By Jim Anderson

On Thursday, July 12, Glen Echo Post Office clerks were alarmed by a suspicious odor in the building. A call to the Glen Echo Fire Dept. quickly produced more than a dozen emergency vehicles roaring up to the Glen Echo Town Hall.

The Post Office was immediately closed, two clerks complaining of dizziness and nausea were taken to Sibley hospital for precautionary tests and Glen Echo Clerk-Treasurer Stacy Malmgren was ordered out of her office. Crews from the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Units, dressed in spaceman suits with oxygen tanks on their backs, searched for the source of the odor.

Because of the possibility that something dangerous was in the U.S. mail, the teams took no chances. Nothing was found, but two days later the HazMat teams were back, again responding to a call about the odor. Ms. Malmgren described it as "like a stink bomb, sulphurous," something like rotten eggs.

Finally, the odor was determined to be coming from back-up batteries for the Post Office computer system. The batteries had gone bad, emitting hydrogen sulfide gas. The batteries were replaced and the problem is apparently solved.

Written reports from the HazMat division and the U.S. postal service were not available by *Echo* press time.

CABIN JOHN BRIDGE CLOSED; SHUTTLE BUS TO OPERATE

The Cabin John Bridge between Glen Echo and Cabin John was closed to pedestrians and vehicles as of July 30 and will remain closed for four months for restoration.

The Cabin John Citizens Association has been instrumental in getting the route of Ride-On Bus #32 revised as well as setting up a shuttle bus system during hours that the Ride-On is not in operation for those who would otherwise be unable to travel between Glen Echo and Cabin John. The shuttle bus is being funded by the Army Corps of Engineers and will be called Ride-on Route 32B

Ride-On Bus #32 will travel along Wilson Lane from the Bethesda Metro station, turn left onto MacArthur Blvd., go through Glen Echo down to the Clara Barton Parkway near The Inn at Glen Echo and come up to Cabin John at the MacArthur Blvd./Clara Barton Center intersection, and continue west on MacArthur as in its previous route. The trip will be the reverse on the way back.

Because the #32 Ride-On does not operate between or after rush hours, there will be a shuttle bus traveling between Cabin John and Glen Echo at 20-30 minute intervals from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and 8:15-10:15 p.m. weekdays; on Saturdays from 7:30-9:30 a.m. and 7:15-9:15 p.m.; and on Sundays from 7:30-9:30 a.m. and 5:45-7:45 p.m.

Detailed schedules are posted on the Cabin John Home Page (www.cabinjohn.org). Information is also available by calling 240-777-RIDE.

THE ECHO

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♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

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20812**

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ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Kathleen Horwitz 301-320-2171

TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

LAW & ASSOCIATES, INC.
(301) 229-8500



Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

AUGUST OFFICE HOURS CHANGE AT TOWN HALL

For the month of August, the office hours at the Glen Echo Town Hall will be as follows:

Every Tuesday—9:30 a.m.-noon

Every Thursday—10:30 a.m.-noon

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 13—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

TOWN CUTS BACK OVERHANGING FOLIAGE

A contractor for the town last month cut back the foliage that was still impeding free passage of pedestrians on town sidewalks. Residents had been notified both by town bulletin and notices in *The Echo* that it was their responsibility to do this cutback by June 15.

There were a number of spots where a pedestrian seeking to pass had to duck, move to the side or leave the sidewalk entirely, and in some cases it was not possible to push a stroller or a wheelchair along the walkway.

However, the town regrets that in a few cases the contractor interpreted his task in an over-zealous manner and made some cut-backs that were unnecessary. Procedures to prevent this will be taken to avoid this in the future.,

Because the contractor was so late in performing his job, residents will not be charged with the work done at their address this year.

The town wants to thank all those who complied with the cutback notification so that their sidewalk was clear without any action having to be taken.



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happening up and down
MacArthur Blvd."

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FEDEX BOX REMOVAL INVOLVES CONTROVERSY

By David Chitwood

After a Federal Express box was installed near the entrance to the Glen Echo Post Office, a town resident complained to Mayor Beers about the increased traffic it was likely to bring. The mayor had an e-mail discussion with the council, which resulted in support for the box's removal. She complained to the Postal Service real estate contact person, Joseph O'Connor, who stated that the box will be removed.

The mayor told the town council at its July meeting that she also received a complaint from a town resident about the rapid action the council took in response to a single complaint from a town resident about the box, without any sort of public hearing on the matter.

Councilman Tom Lorenzen said that he had received two or three complaints; Councilwoman Eve Arber said that she had received a favorable comment about the service provided by the box.

Councilman Tim Maloy commented that this seemed to be an issue of such importance that a timely response was necessary. He added that there can be some concern about e-mail decisions not being in accordance with the sunshine law, which requires governmental discussions to be open to the public. He suggested that *The Echo* receive copies of all e-mail discussions that involve voting on specific issues.

Other councilmembers indicated distaste for the box. Their major objection was that the box was installed by the Postal Service on town property without consulting the town. Only the building conveys in the lease, not the grounds.

The Mayor added that the box is far more conspicuous than the more sedately colored mailbox.

Councilman Lorenzen added that the box is the result of a recently signed agreement between Federal Express and the Postal Service, but that the Postal Service should install the box within the building. He understands the concern about the speed with which the town acted, but he believes that an immediate response was necessary because the erection of the box was an act of trespass upon town property.

Mobil



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Fax: (301) 652-1138

COUNCIL VOTES FEE RAISE FOR TOWN HALL

By David Chitwood

In a survey of fees charged by several organizations, including women's clubs, churches, parks, and county recreational centers, Councilwoman Eve Arber concluded that rental fees charged by Glen Echo for use of the town hall are low compared to the fees for similar halls.

She told the town council last month that a doubling of current rates would still be below rates charged to rent other facilities, many of which are booked solidly for months in advance. She added that the Glen Echo hall has an excellent floor and a certain ambience to it. In addition, the Hall is ADA-compliant.

The council agreed that the fees should be raised but was reluctant to continue limiting town hall use by town residents to only twice a year, as Councilwoman Arber recommended. After some discussion, the council resolved to permit three free uses per year by residents 18 years of age or older, with additional uses charged \$25 per use, an increase of \$15 from the current \$10 fee.

Otherwise, all of Ms. Arber's proposals were accepted. She said that she expected that the increases would be enough to maintain the floor.

Effective September 1, town hall rental fees will be as follows:

Town residents 18 or older—three free uses per year; \$25/additional use.

Nonprofit organizations providing benefits to Glen Echo citizens, such as by providing free access to events— fees raised from \$20 to \$50 per use.

Nonprofit groups not providing benefits to the town— fees doubled to \$100 per use.

Private, non-resident social events—fees doubled from \$250 to \$500.

There was some discussion of groups using the hall weekly, such as the country dancers who meet every Wednesday evening, and whether they should be charged a special fee. Councilwoman Nancy Long mentioned that a town resident has discussed using the hall for tango lessons once per week. The Mayor commented that the town should closely examine recurring, weekly uses of the hall, even if it's by a town resident. Councilman Tom Lorenzen said the town should consider negotiating the fees for all recurring events.

The current rates are on the Web at <http://www.glenecho.org/TH/fees.htm>.)

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Jane Stevenson's
6106 Yale Ave.*

Wednesday, August 8, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-229-3578



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Nuts, dried fruit, grains & beans sold in bulk ▼
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TOWN REQUESTS SAFETY MARKINGS ON REPAVED BLVD., BIKE PATH

By David Chitwood and Carlotta Anderson

Mayor Debbie Beers and Town Councilwoman Nancy Long met on July 12 with a county official to ask for striping and barriers to ensure safety on the newly repaved MacArthur Blvd. and adjacent bicycle path.

In the area of the traffic circle at the base of Goldsboro Rd., the stanchions that previously separated the auto lane from the bike path have not yet been replaced, the street had not yet been striped, and only tiny reflectors mark the street boundary, they pointed out to Richard Long of the Dept. of Transportation and Public Works. Many of the reflectors have fallen off already. The result has been that vehicles often utilize the bike path.

They also requested that the contractor immediately stripe the intersections of the bike path that cross town streets with reflective "zebra" striping. These intersections are dangerous to pedestrians and bikers because cars turning into Glen Echo from MacArthur Blvd. appear unaware of the existence of the bike bath, as Mayor Beers also pointed out in a letter to the department director, Albert Genetti. She mentioned that in the past pedestrians and cyclists have been hit by cars while crossing these town entrances.

Mayor Beers wrote a similar letter to the then department director, Scott Wainwright in March, 1998, after a pedestrian was hit by a car while walking on the bike path at night.

Another area of concern was the previously striped crosswalk for pedestrians to cross MacArthur Blvd. from

Princeton Ave. As Mayor Beers also pointed out in her letter, the crosswalk was much used by pedestrians, whose right-of-way was routinely ignored by drivers. She suggested that the crossing be re-striped immediately and that a warning light be installed.

She and Councilwoman Long additionally requested that a marked crossing be made across MacArthur near the Cabin John Bridge, facilitating crossing from Wilson Lane.

At the July town council meeting Mayor Beers reported that Brookmont citizen John Christian had given her a copy of a detailed, extensively illustrated study of the bike path. The 50-page report, which has been sent to Mr. Genetti, points out the dangers of numerous places on the path. The Brookmont, Bannockburn and Cabin John civic associations have endorsed parts of the study, and the town was asked to provide similar endorsement.

The Council expressed concern about whether it should be making recommendations for parts of the trail that are in other communities. Councilman Lorenzen volunteered to examine the thick report, focussing on areas of the trail in and adjacent to the town. The Mayor agreed to invite Mr. Genetti to a town meeting to discuss the town's concerns about the repaving operation and the bike path.

Looking for a life changing experience?

Come to Glen Echo Baptist Church, where you will be educated as to what God's Word means. All teaching is straight from the Bible.

Sunday School 9:30am, Sunday Services 11:00am and 6:00pm, Wed night service at 7:00pm.

Also on Wed, children 6-10yrs at the Annex (University & Harvard Sts.) 7:00pm.

TOWN CONTAINS CLUSTER OF PSYCHOTHERAPISTS, ETC.

Glen Echo seems to be a magnet for certain professions—law, psychology, journalism. *The Echo* last counted 14 lawyers in town. This month we have come up with eight residents who work in some form of psychology or psychiatry. Five of these have their offices at the Glen Echo Shopping Center.

Lynn Dworsky is a psychiatrist with offices at the shopping center.

Katherine Ward, Dia Costello, Sharon Morrow, and **Constance Macy** are all psychotherapists in a suite at the shopping center.

Meris Steele is a psychotherapist at the Washington School of Psychiatry.

Gloria Levin has a Ph.D. in psychology and was trained as a community psychologist. She is currently working as an administrator but will resume community psychology in less than a year.

Tony Huff is a clinical social worker who specializes in treating adolescents.

We'll next count the many journalists in Glen Echo.

POPULATION INCREASES BY ONE

New resident Madeleine Emma Andres moved to 6104 Bryn Mawr Ave. last month to join her parents Kelly and Joe Andres. She was born on July 2 at 8:02 p.m. at Georgetown University Hospital, weighing a healthy eight pounds, six ounces.

Kelly and Joe moved here two years ago from Alexandria partly because they wanted any future arrivals to have the advantage of the Montgomery County schools. So in a few years Madeleine can join the other Glen Echo kids attending Bannockburn Elementary School.

Congratulations, Kelly and Joe!

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

July 9

- Clerk-Treasurer Stacey Malmgren reported that the town's **insurance agent** had recently performed his once-every-three-years hazard inspection. As a result, some of the fire extinguishers have been remounted, recharged, or replaced. Other recommendations of the agent will be given to the Council soon.
- A **fiber optic company** that has linked up various county agencies paid a visit to Glen Echo. The cost for connecting the town hall to their network would be \$50,000; cabling would be above ground. The town council was not enthusiastic.
- Councilmember Nancy Long commented on a June 27 *Washington Post* article stating that the Montgomery County Council is considering **selling advertising** on buildings, bridges, and other public facilities. She is concerned about the proliferation of advertising and commercialism in inappropriate locations. As the County assumes a greater role in Glen Echo Park, the possibility of advertising clearly exists. She did not find a comment from Park Superintendent Audrey Calhoun that advertisement would never occur unless certain circumstances were met to be very assuring. A councilmember mentioned that MacDonaldis might be interested in coloring the arches of the Cabin John Bridge.

--David Chitwood

REVISED N-7 BUS SCHEDULE

From Glen Echo, mornings—6:44, 7:19, 7:41, 8:03

From 12th and Constitution, afternoons: 4:50, 5:30, 6:10

From 17th and K St. afternoons: 5:02, 5:42, 6:25

PLEASE NOTE!

Effective immediately, bulk pick-up of heavy or a large quantity of trash will be the **last Friday of each month** (rather than the last Wednesday). All other service days remain the same.

TRASH/RECYCLING COLLECTION TIMES

Tuesday & Friday--**ALL TRASH**, except heavyweight objects.

Tuesday--**RECYCLABLES**, including plastic, metal and glass, and all paper. Newspapers tied or in paper grocery bags. Mixed paper except phone books and hardback books in paper bags or small cardboard boxes. Large cardboard boxes flattened to fit in narrow side bins of recycling truck.

Wednesday--**GARDEN REFUSE**, cut into four-foot lengths and tied, placed in compostable leaf/grass bags, or in a large trash container labeled "Recycling" and used only for yard waste.

Last Friday of the month--**BULK PICKUP**--heavy or large quantity of discardables.

If you have any trash or recycling pick up problems call Waste Management directly at 301-340-0774 and ask for Dispatch.

WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

The Bart Kuper family nearly moved to Glen Echo in December, 1999, when they liked the house at 5906 Oxford Rd. but were also tempted by a house in Great Falls. In choosing the latter, they made "a fatal mistake," says Bart. "We ended up in Glen Echo anyway."

This March Bart, his wife Dieuwke Bakker, and their children Liselotte, 7, and Roseline, 6, moved to the Grants' house at 22 Wellesley Circle and were given a warm welcome the first week by neighbors bringing homemade cookies. They are happy to live again in an "eclectic" town like their home in the Netherlands away from "the huge houses

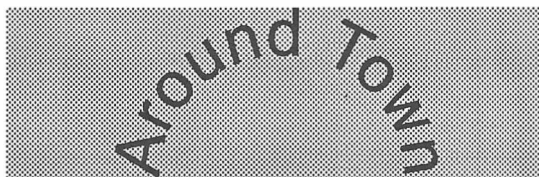
associated with wealth in Great Falls where we didn't see our neighbors." He says it's important to them to be "in a neighborhood where the kids will have memories."

Bart is a tax lawyer and Senior Vice President for Royal Ahold, the Dutch firm that owns supermarkets in 23 countries and recently took over the Giant stores. He previously was stationed in the Dutch kingdom of Curacao, where Rosaline was born, and traveled often to the U.S. on business.

Bart and Dieuwke actually got to know each other in 1985 at a Pennsylvania sports camp for Jewish children. He was a sailing instructor and she was a swimming instructor.

Liselotte and Roseline, who are only 14 months apart, will both be attending the Washington International School in Georgetown in September. The school has seven children in a Dutch program 15 hours per week, with the rest of the instruction in English. The other half of their class has Spanish instead. The girls are already familiar figures in town, riding their bicycles with very blond hair flying in the wind, and have made friends with many Glen Echo children.

The family will be staying here for at least the next two years.



The U.S. Postal Service has signed a rental contract with Glen Echo for \$28,000 per year.

At her graduation last month from The Mercerberg Academy, Princeton Ave. resident **Christin Polak** received the annual Darrell Ecker Award, which goes to "the female athlete who best exemplifies dedication, hard work, sense of fair play, outstanding achievement, and sterling leadership on the athletic field and in the school." She also was named to the All-League First Team in Women's Lacrosse of the Mid-Atlantic Prep League and was awarded the 2001 Athletic Director's Award of the Academy. Christin has been named Most Outstanding Player for the past three years for women's lacrosse and Most Outstanding Player for the past two years in field hockey.

She graduated with honors from Mercerberg, an independent, coeducational college-preparatory boarding and day school in Mercersburg, Penn.

Robert Shaut of Harvard Ave. returned July 22 from Gothenberg, Sweden, after playing in the Gothia World Youth Cup 2001 soccer tournament. All the members of his club team, the Potomac Bombers, are Walt Whitman High School students under 16 years of age. His team lost in the semi-finals to a Spanish team that went on to win the Under-16 championship.

Billy Briggs is back to his Bryn Mawr Ave. home from Sibley Hospital and recuperating.

Only three Glen Echo residents gave blood at the joint Glen Echo/Cabin John/Bannockburn/Carderock Springs **Blood Drive** that took place on July 15 at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. The Red Cross was very pleased, nevertheless, because 71 people showed up and 61 pints of blood were obtained.

Don Macy has completed his MSW (Master in Social Work) degree at the University of Maryland. The University Ave. resident is also a lawyer and worked full-time at Mortgage Banking Systems during his four years of study. In the future, he'll be looking for a job that combines legal work with social work.

A new band shell is being built for the Bumper Car pavilion by volunteers, the *Glen Echo Park Foundation Newsletter* reports. It will greatly increase the usefulness of the Bumper Car Pavilion, leaving the entire floor to dancers.



GLEN ECHO FUNDING VIRTUALLY ASSURED

Senators Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes (both D-MD) announced that they have secured \$2.4 million in federal funding to complete their \$6.4 million commitment to Glen Echo Parks' three-year restoration project.

The money was included in the FY 02 Interior Appropriations bill, which the U.S. Senate passed on July 12. The legislation will now go to conference, but approval of the Glen Echo funding is virtually assured.

Congresswoman Connie Morella announced last month that she had requested the \$2.4 million in federal funding from the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and that it had been approved by the House of Representatives.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT June 2001

Aronson, Fetridge— mini-audit, training	\$1602.00
Case Design—,hall ceiling repair	\$522.00
Lorenzen, Malmgren —town picnic	\$276.48
Maloy —Town to Work Day supplies	\$68.86

CORRECTION

In an article about the town budget in the July issue, Norman Bernhardt was described as wanting to know "what Mr. Thomas' qualifications were" in preparing an assessment study of the town streets. Mr. Bernhardt was speaking of Matthew Willems, a representative of the A. Morton Thomas firm, not Mr. Thomas himself.

LABOR DAY ART SHOW TO BE HELD SEPT. 1-3

Glen Echo Park's 31st Annual Labor Day Art Show will be held in the historic Spanish Ballroom on Sept. 1-3 from noon-6:00 p.m.

An opening reception will take place on Friday, Aug. 31, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The work of more than 150 artists will be on display. Most items are for sale.

FIVE LOCAL BURGARIES IN MAY AND JUNE

Five burglaries occurred within a mile of Glen Echo during both day and night hours in late May and early June. Two local juveniles and one adult were arrested June 19 and charged with four of the burglaries, according to officials at the July Montgomery County Police Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting.

—Norman and Diana Hudson-Taylor

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOUND—Two concrete yard ornaments in the shape of animals. Call 301-229-2122.


Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 50 characters or fewer. Display ads: \$4 per column inch. Ads may be left with or mailed to the editor at 38 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

NEED NEW RECYCLING BIN?

If your green recycling bin has been damaged, if you are a new resident and didn't find a bin when you moved in, or if you need another one, you may obtain one.

Just call Clerk/Treasurer Stacey Malmgren at the town office, 301-320-4041 and let her know you need one.

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