

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



December 2003

TOWN MAY RESTRICT SOME PARKING TO RESIDENTS

By Jerry Bodlander

The problem caused when too many cars park on town streets, particularly near Glen Echo Park, has prompted the town council to contemplate instituting parking restrictions.

It has asked town attorney Norman Knopf to draft a parking ordinance that would limit street parking from 6 p.m. Friday to 10 p.m. Sunday to town residents and their guests.

Council members stressed that drafting the ordinance does not mean a decision has been made to implement it. They called it a natural response to trying to control the overflow when the parking spaces at Glen Echo Park are all filled up.

Town resident Phyllis Fordham said the problem occurs only when very large events are held at the park.

She and council members expressed longing for the days when park rangers would control traffic at major park events and set up barriers so the overflow would not move into Glen Echo. They said it has become clear the Glen Echo Park Partnership is unable and perhaps unwilling to deal with the situation.

Mayor Debbie Beers described recent problems as a "total breakdown." She said the partnership needs to take responsibility at any event where it even thinks the parking lot might be inadequate.

Several council members also commented that the

situation probably won't improve because the partnership's goal is to make money, and the only way to do that is to have more large events at the park.

COME ONE, COME ALL! HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Sunday, Dec. 14,
9:00-10.30 a.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall**

**All Residents invited to attend
and exchange holiday
greetings with their neighbors**

**Volunteers Needed for set-up,
shopping, pancake frying, and
clean-up**

Call 301-320-4041 to volunteer

THE ECHO

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♻️ Printed on recycled paper

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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20812**

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and Friday, 9:00 a.m.-noon or by appointment

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Tim Maloy 301-229-4745

Dan Macy 301-229-2122

Nancy Long 301-332-3823

CLERK-TREASURER

Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

The following activities booked at the town hall are free for town residents:

Thursday, Dec. 4—7:00-10:00 p.m. Amer. Indian Intertribal Council

Sunday, Dec. 7—noon-5:00 p.m., C&O Canal Assn. Board meeting

Monday, Nov. 8-- 8:00 p.m. TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, Dec. 14, 9:00 a.m.-noon, TOWN HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Every Wednesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. English Country Dance. Live music. No experience or partner needed. Sponsored by Folklore Society of Greater Washington.



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INN OWNER SEEKS ADDITIONAL PARKING

By Jerry Bodlander

The new owner of the Inn at Glen Echo is hoping to rent some town land near the Inn for parking.

Chris Hughes said he expects the restaurant, to be known as The Irish Inn at Glen Echo, to open sometime in December.

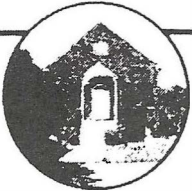
He told the town council at its Nov. 10 meeting that he'd be willing to put up a fence so he could use the now vacant property for valet or staff parking. He says the aim is to reduce the number of cars on the town streets once the Inn opens.

Mr. Hughes says he doesn't know how many cars the space could hold because he doesn't know how much of the land is owned by the town. It currently has an old basketball hoop on it and was occasionally borrowed by Glen Echo Park for folk festival use. The lower portion is owned by the park service.

Town attorney Norman Knopf said he'll look into whether it can be done. The area is zoned residential and Mr. Knopf says that there used to be an exception for commercial establishments to allow for parking in residential areas. But he's not sure whether that still exists. He also says he will look into whether the town is bound by the zoning law.

Mayor Debbie Beers and Councilman Tim Maloy indicated they might be willing to let Hughes rent the space. Both noted the space currently just sits empty,

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TREMENDOUS TURNOUT FOR HALLOWEEN PARTY



Mayor Debbie Beers rummaged through her costume drawer to come up with this impromptu outfit.

The town hall was dark and spooky as nearly 100 fantastically costumed residents of all ages assembled for pizza and goodies at the annual Oct. 31 Halloween party.

The party was notable for the large number in attendance, possibly more than have ever before showed up for a Glen Echo Halloween party. This was not just a get-together for children; there were many adults who came without children and the guests' ages ranged from under one year to seniors.

The party was followed by trick-or-treating.

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AROUND TOWN

Some 300 guests, many in evening gowns and tuxedos, boogied in the newly restored ballroom at the **Glen Echo Park Gala** on Nov. 15. A high point of the evening was the tango executed by Sen. Barbara Mikulski, dressed in a dashing red and black dress and black wig, and County Executive Douglas Duncan, decked out in a Fedora, red silk scarf and long-stemmed rose placed between his teeth. They had promised a year ago to dance together at the reopening of the historic ballroom.

An **enormous neon sign** high above the entrance now advises those on MacArthur Blvd. that they are passing "Glen Echo Park." A replica of the original 1940s version, the red sign was officially lit up the night of the Gala.

Former Glen Echo resident sculptor **Jim Sanborn** has two new exhibitions that opened in D.C. last month. At the Corcoran Gallery of Art, his installation "Critical Assembly" uses lab equipment left over from early A-bomb research which he acquired in Los Alamos, NM. At the Numark Gallery the exhibit is titled "Jim Sanborn: Penetrating Radiation." Jim Sanborn lived at 6106 Yale Ave., where Jane and Brockie Stevenson now reside, in the 1970s.

A disappointing number of Glen Echo residents volunteered to help with the Oct. 31 **Halloween party** at the town hall, according to Clerk/Treasurer Cathie Polak. Apart from her, the only volunteers were Dan and Constance Macy, Debbie Lange, Julia Wilson and Angie Zeidenberg, although there were nearly 100 people in attendance.

Residents filled two large trash bags with **winter coats and jackets** for recent refugees in the United States that was collected last month by the Steele children of Bryn Mawr Ave. The clothing was brought to the Steele's front porch by residents who didn't need it anymore.

A good number of Glen Echo residents, including Mayor Debbie Beers, attended the **English Country Dance Party** at the town hall on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 15. The event was organized by Norm Bernhardt. Similar dances take place every Wednesday evening at the town hall.

SOME DANCERS STOMPING ON DANCE FLOOR

By Jerry Bodlander

Members of the town council expressed displeasure at the Nov. 10 meeting at the way some dancers are treating the town hall.

Councilmember Nancy Long said she and councilmember Dan Macy were "appalled" to see some dancers stomping their feet in what is known as Morris Dancing, a dance form that is usually done outside. Both agreed it was "inappropriate."

In addition, they said, the town hall was being used several hours earlier than what had been approved. Councilwoman Long said the dancers had apparently been given permission to rehearse by a family dance group that had reserved the hall.

Mayor Debbie Beers said she'll write a letter of complaint to the group involved. She added that they need to understand that they could lose the right to use the town hall if it happens again.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 8, 8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

FREE COMPOST BINS

The following location has compost bins available for County residents at **no charge**: Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, 301-986-4329.

Raw sewage was leaked into tributaries of the Cabin John Creek watershed last month from the German School Washington D.C. which is located in Potomac. The creek flows under the Cabin John Bridge and into the Potomac River. The school will be responsible for flushing out the stream.

COUNCIL DOESN'T WANT EXCEPTIONS IN ZONING LAWS

By Jerry Bodlander

The town council has asked town attorney Norman Knopf to draft an ordinance that would close a loophole in Montgomery County's zoning law. The aim is to require all new homes in Glen Echo to adhere to the required 25 foot setback no matter on what street they are located.

Meridian Homes wanted to build a house on a Columbia Ave. lot that would face lower Yale Ave. instead of Columbia and set it back from the road by only 18 feet.

There is apparently an exception in the zoning laws providing for a setback of just 15 feet if the house would be the only construction in that block on that side of the street. There is currently no house on that side of lower Yale Ave

The ordinance sought by the town council would exempt existing structures and apply only to new structures, although council members also expressed concern about teardowns.

Mayor Debbie Beers said the goal is to preventone from manipulating existing rules to put "huge" houses on tiny lots.

Council members said they want the ordinance to require a 25 foot setback on each side if a building is a corner lot.

COUNTY NOW SUPPORTS TOWN'S BIKE PATH CHOICE

An upgraded MacArthur Blvd. bicycle path plan that the town supported is now the recommendation of county officials.

Alternative 2, as it is known, would upgrade the existing bike/pedestrian path to include a five-foot open space separation from the roadway wherever possible plus a 42-inch high physical barrier where necessary.

The plan would extend the bike path in order to eliminate the short distance near Persimmon Tree Rd. where the path crosses over MacArthur Blvd. and then back. Other improvements would include adding signs and pavement markings and making better connections with other bike paths and trails.

County officials had previously favored a plan that would have created an additional path on the other side of MacArthur Blvd., which was known as Alernative 3, and was supported by bicycle groups. It would have substantially widened the roadway.

This plan was objected to by the town, which called it "too invasive," as well as by other local citizens' groups.

A public hearing on the proposed plan was to be held by the Montgomery County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation on Nov. 20 in Silver Spring. Leaflets advising residents of this were distributed to each Glen Echo household.

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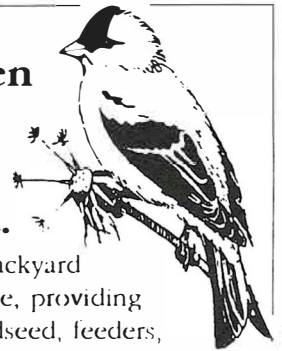


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COUNCIL GRAPPLES WITH FLIGHT NOISE

By Jerry Bodlander

The town council at its Nov. 10 meeting endorsed a proposal for a so-called scatter plan involving planes going in and out of National Airport.

Resident Diana Hudson-Taylor outlined the proposals that Citizens Against Airport Noise (CAAN) is circulating to local municipalities.

The aim of the scatter plan is to reduce noise by having planes use different flight patterns.

The council decided not to urge that planes flying into and out of that airport use their GPS (Global Positioning Systems). The concern was that while the planes might stick to a narrower flight path, the automatic pilot that's involved might actually result in more noise than a pilot manually bringing the jet in for a landing.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Glen Echo Town Council holds regular monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the Glen Echo Town Hall.

Meetings of the town council are open to the public.

Any citizen may request to be placed on the agenda of a town council meeting. Such requests should be made to the mayor as far in advance of the meeting as possible so that the item of business can be placed on the prepared agenda. However, the mayor may use her discretion regarding last minute requests.

Having been granted a place on the agenda, the citizen may state his/her business or concern to the council, reply to questions, and make additional comments when acknowledged by the mayor. Others present may participate in the discussion upon raising their hands and being acknowledged by the mayor.

Any member of the council may request that an item of business be discussed in Executive Session (secret session). If such a session is held, the subject matter must be confined to personnel matters, bids and contracts while pending and other items that have been specified under the state's "sunshine" provisions. The reason for the Executive Session must be stated at the next regular meeting.

Minutes of all town council meetings are on file at the town hall and available to citizens if requested.

Any citizen of Glen Echo may petition the town council to hold a town meeting for the purpose of discussing major issues relevant to the well being of the community providing that the majority of the council supports such action or the request is made by at least 10 members of the community.

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT October, 2003

Waste Management	\$4,238.23
Allied Printing (Echo)	\$168.44
Spenser Steele (bulletin delivery)	\$40.00

(A full accounting of all bills paid and payments received is available as part of the town council minutes.)



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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.

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CENTENNIAL EVENTS PLANNED

The new year will mark the start of the celebration of the town's centennial and plenty of events have already been scheduled. An event and a lecture are being planned for each month.

William Offutt, author of the book "Bethesda," will kick off the celebration with a lecture in January. Other guest lecturers include *Washington Post* columnist Colbert King, and Cathy Douglas Stone, the widow of the late Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. She will be in the D.C. area to mark the 50th anniversary of Justice Douglas's walk along the C&O Canal towpath, which initiated efforts to make it a national park.

—**Jerry Bodlander**



Eleanor

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GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

EVENTS AT THE PARK

The Spanish Ballroom is closed for renovations, but dances will be held year-around in the Bumper Car Pavilion. It is heated with space heaters.

Friday Night Dances—contras, square and country mixers. Beginners welcome. \$7. 8:30-11:30

Saturday Night Dances—swing, cajun/zydeco, salsa. \$12. 9:00-midnight

Sunday Afternoon Tea Dances—waltzes, swing, cajun/zydeco. \$7 or \$10. 3:30-6:00

Sunday Night Dances—contra, square, folk. Forexperiences dancers. 7:30-10. \$9

ADVENTURE THEATRE

A Visit from St. Nicholas or The Night Before Christmas

Through December 28

Saturdays only at 1:30 and 3:30

The Wise Men of Chelm

Through December 28

Sundays only at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$7.00 Call 301-320-5331

THE PUPPET THEATRE

The Nutcracker

Through December 31

Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30

Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00

Tickets: \$6.00 Call 301-320-6668

NEED NEW RECYCLING BIN?

If your green recycling bin has been damaged, or if you are a new resident and didn't find a bin when you moved in, you are eligible for a new one. You may also ask for an extra if one bin is insufficient.

Just call the town office and indicate if you are trading in an old one or ordering a new one.

WHEN SNOW FALLS....

University Ave. is the designated Snow Emergency Route for the Town of Glen Echo.

When snow is anticipated, residents are asked to park only on the northeast side of University Ave., the side nearest MacArthur Blvd. or on the side streets.

There should be **NO PARKING** on the river side of University Ave. This will enable snow plows to keep a wide section of the roadway clear to permit fire and rescue access to town.

Residents should shovel the snow off the sidewalks alongside their properties so that pedestrians can walk in safety. This should be done promptly because unshoveled snow often freezes and remains on the ground for days.

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