

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



December 2007

244 STOP SIGN VIOLATORS FINED THIS YEAR TO DATE

Many drivers who failed to stop at the stop sign on Oxford Rd. and University Ave. during the nine-month period that an off-duty police officer hired by the town was checking had an unpleasant surprise awaiting them. They received the regular county fine of \$90 for running a stop sign.

Of the 244 violators fined in seven-and-a-half months this year, about 30 have appeared in court. One pleaded not guilty; the others pleaded guilty with hopes of a lower fine/points, according to the records of clerk-treasurer Cathie Polak. The court did not alter the fines, however, and even complimented the police officer for a "fine job."

There has been one repeat offender.

Since the officer changed his location from the park side of Oxford Rd. to a spot in front of 7300 University Ave., the number of citations has increased. This is interpreted to mean that some visitors are looking over at the park and not the stop sign on their way to the park parking lot.

The town began hiring off-duty police officers to enforce vehicle laws in 2005, but suspended the practice in 2006 while the National Park Service was discussing the possibility of changing the entryway to the parking lot. The enforcement was renewed in March, 2007. The figures for citations issued do not include the month of May, and only the first half of November.

The town hires the police officers for a three-hour minimum at \$35/hr. The officers come in a police car, in uni-

form. The town does not get the revenue from the tickets; it goes to the county.

--Carlotta Anderson

HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2007

GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL

9 TO 10:30 A.M.

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOMED

PLEASE CONTACT CATHIE POLAK

AT 301-320-4041

THE ECHO

Published unofficially by, for and in the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of *The Echo* on file at Little Falls and Rockville libraries. Total circulation: 190. Distributed the first weekend of the month.

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Next Deadline December 28

Printed by Allied Printing, Bethesda

Letters to the Editor are welcomed. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Any comments about *The Echo* may be addressed to the Editor, the Mayor or any councilmember. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the Editor at: 301-229-3748.

♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

LEAF PICKUP THIS MONTH

Leaf pickup along town streets will take place several times this month. A flyer will be delivered to each house notifying residents of the proposed dates.

When raking or blowing leaves from your yard be sure they are in the street and not on the sidewalk. It is annoying for pedestrians to have to kick away leaves as they walk on the sidewalk and, when frosty, leaves become very slippery and dangerous to walk on.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 10—8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall
Contact the clerk-treasurer to add an item to the agenda

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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20812

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or by appointment

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Robin Kogelnik 301-320-5269

Nancy Long 301-332-3823

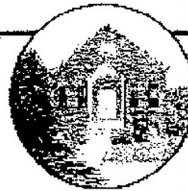
Steve Matney 301-320-2059

CLERK-TREASURER

Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>



Glen Echo Baptist Church

Serving Glen Echo families since 1939

Dr. Ed Curtis, Th.D., Pastor

Bringing God's Truth to Life

Sunday School 9:30 am

Sunday Services 11:00 am

Wednesday Activities 7:00 pm

Mid-Week Bible Study Vassar Circle

TOWN TO O.K. ENGINEERING PLAN FOR STREET REPAIR

By Jerry Bodlander

The town council is poised to approve a bid by engineering firm A. Morton Thomas to study needed street repair in the town. The \$9,200 dollar bid would include taking four core samples from various locations around the town in order to determine what sort of repairs will be needed.

Council members agreed that more core samples will probably be needed, and wanted to know how much each additional test would cost. But they stressed that a key factor in deciding to award the bid to A. Morton Thomas was its willingness to oversee the bidding process for the street repair work.

The other company bidding on the job, EBA Engineering, proposed taking 26 core samples, but the proposed cost was more than double and it wouldn't oversee the bid process.



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COUNCIL DOESN'T SUPPORT REQUEST FOR PARKING SPACES

By Jerry Bodlander

The town council at its Nov. 12 meeting declined to support resident Phyllis Daen's bid for a waiver of the parking requirement for a home office permit for her Harvard Ave. residence. Montgomery County requires four off-street parking places in order to approve such a request.

Don Dworsky, a resident of Columbia Ave., urged the council not to support the request, saying the town should oppose anything that increases traffic and parking problems. He said that with Mrs. Daen seeing patients in her home, there have been "numerous" instances of cars sitting in the street, their passengers either early for an appointment or waiting to pick someone up.

He said there have also been instances of the street being blocked by cars driven by people not known to him. He said it has "changed the whole gestalt of our neighborhood."

Ms. Daen said she asked people not to park on Columbia Ave., and Mr. Dworsky acknowledged that the situation in the last three or four months hasn't been as bad as before.

The council noted that one option is for Ms. Daen to create some parking spaces on her own property, although she said to do that she would have to give up her garden. She also told the council that she has purchased office space in the Westbard Shopping Center which she will begin using in January, and so won't be seeing patients at her home except possibly in inclement weather.

Mayor Debbie Beers said it would be premature for the council to support the request. She added that the council might be more inclined to support it if Ms. Daen took steps to create a few off-street parking spaces that could be used for her patients. Ms. Daen is a psychologist in private practice.

WHO IS A RESIDENT? WHO CAN VOTE IN TOWN?

By Jerry Bodlander

The town has asked its lawyer, Norman Knopf, to draft an amendment to the town charter to clarify who is a resident, and therefore eligible to vote in town elections.

The move comes after questions were raised about the eligibility of some voters during the last town election. Mayor Beers said Mr. Knopf has been asked to come up with a definition that is consistent with state law.

She said the goal is to make sure there aren't people voting "who don't really have stake in the election." The mayor said it is clear that *au pairs* and others who might be living in the town on tourist or other temporary visas aren't town residents.

AROUND TOWN

An artist's sketch of **Peter Zeidenberg** illustrated a front page story in *The Washington Post* on Nov. 14 titled "Scam Could Total \$31 Million." The article identified the Wellesley Circle resident as the defense attorney of Harriette Walters, who was charged with signing off on 58 fraudulent property tax refund checks which went to sham companies. Mr. Zeidenberg, who for 22 years was a Federal prosecutor, retired from that position in August and joined D.L.A. Piper international law firm in D.C. He is not, however, Ms. Walters's defense attorney and his firm does not represent her. He was only acting in a temporary *pro bono* assignment until she obtained her own attorney...

The town's annual Halloween party on Oct. 31 was a huge success, filling the town hall with cleverly costumed revelers both young and not-so-young. Everyone grabbed slices of pizza until there was no more, but volunteers had brought other goodies as well. What with the trick-or-treating that followed the party, no Glen Echoans went hungry that night, although their repasts may not have been ideally balanced nutritionally. **Robin Hannes**, and **Carsten Kogelnik** along with **Cathie Polak** set up everything for the party; **Norman Bernhardt** helped with the clean up...

Michael Bobbitt was featured in the "Backstage" column of *The Washington Post* on Nov. 7 in connection with the children's classics he plans to present at the new Adventure Theatre. It lists the plays scheduled for the 2007-08 season, all of which are adaptations of beloved children's books. A choreographer, actor and playwright, Michael plans to bring in artists he has worked with at other venues.

Cabin John residents are still trying to get the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority to construct an **odor abatement system** to eliminate the sewer stench (hydrogen sulfide gas) that plagues their area. The smell comes from several sewer vents located near the Clara Barton Parkway, according to the *Gazette*. The odor abatement system was designed in 2005 but the approval process has been "tricky," according to Roger Gans, manager of planning and design for WASA, because it involves impact on parkland, historic appropriateness of the unit's appearance and traffic blockages during construction. Such slow progress toward fixing a stench that has troubled residents for 50 years is "outrageous," according to Burr Gray, head of the Cabin John Citizens Association.

Glen Echo's own "festival of lights" began with the awesome display at the **Springuels'** house on Vassar Circle. House, trees, fence—everything lights can be attached to all lit up in multi-colored splendor. It's worth a special trip.



December 2007 at REDEEMER

■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

The Holy Eucharist	8:00 am
Adult Education	9:15 am
Choral Eucharist	10:30 am
Sunday School & Nursery Care	10:30 am

■ ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sunday, 2 December / The First Sunday of Advent

Advent Wreath-Making	12:00 noon
Lessons & Carols for Advent	5:00 pm

Monday, 24 December / Christmas Eve

Family Service: "The Friendly Beasts"	5:00 pm
Festal Eucharist with Choral Prelude	10:00 pm

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

6201 Dunrobbin Drive ■ Bethesda, Maryland 20816
(301) 229-3770 ■ office.redeemer@verizon.net

www.redeemerbethesda.org

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Sunday, December 2, 10:00-5:00—C&O CANAL ASSN. BOARD MEETING

Saturday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.—GLEN ECHO FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday, December 9, 3:00 p.m.—FAMILY DANCE, Folklore Society of Greater Washington

Monday, December 10, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, December 15, 9:00-10:30 a.m.—TOWN PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Every Wednesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. **English Country Dance.** Live music. No experience or partner needed.

TOWN READIES APPROVAL FOR LANDSCAPING OF PARKS

By Jerry Bodlander

The town is poised to sign a contract to landscape the two town parks. The contract has already been approved.

Council members Nancy Long and Eve Arber got the go-ahead from the rest of the council at its Nov. 12 meeting to finalize the agreement with John Shorb Landscaping. The \$22,800 contract calls for more than 160 plants and small trees of various sizes and colors.

The two council members will see whether the number of plantings can be cut back. Councilmember Arber said that wouldn't hurt the appearance of the park because the plants are expected grow larger. It would also enable the town to save some money.

Councilmember Long said the landscaper was confident that watering wouldn't be a problem, because the town could tap into a fire hydrant with a hose that has a special adapter. This would prevent anyone else from using that hose.

Councilmember Long also raised the idea of having a maintenance contract. That would absolve the town of any responsibility should there be problems with the plants.

JOAN JOHNSTON FOSTER

Joan Johnston Foster, teacher, multi-talented artist, writer, loving mother and long-time resident of Glen Echo, Maryland, passed away on November 1, 2007. She was at home in Macon, Georgia with family at the time of her death.

Joan lived in Glen Echo at 5 Vassar Circle from 1979 to 2004 from which she continued her long career as a teacher at Georgetown Day School.

A graduate of Oberlin College and Columbia University Teachers College, Joan's young adult life was filled with travel. She traveled as a Vista Volunteer in Mexico, a student abroad in France, and a journalist in the old Soviet Union. Later in life she found and took inspiration for her art and writings from her home in Glen Echo and the nearby Potomac River.

She is survived by her two sons, Grant and Todd Foster, her former husband George Foster, and two sisters Kit Howard and Ruth Chisholm.

A memorial service is planned on her birthday Saturday, January 26 at the Glen Echo Town Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: The Parkinson's Foundation, The Southern Poverty Law Center or The Audubon Society.

GLEN ECHO PROPERTY ACTIVITY

7311 University Ave. (rented)

\$3,650/mo

7326 University Ave. (sold)

\$850,000



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Mon.-Sat. 9-9, Sun. 9-7

NEW CLASSES BEGIN IN JANUARY AT CLARA BARTON CENTER

Registration has already begun for winter classes at the Clara Barton Community Center.

For those wishing to get some exercise when the weather is bad, there are a number of fitness classes available. They include "Definitions Low Impact Aerobics" on Monday and Friday mornings; "Definitions Cardio Buffet" on Wednesday mornings; "Definitions Strength Training" Tuesday and Thursday mornings and evenings; and "Definitions Mat Pilates" on Wednesday mornings. For further information, contact Judy Brookes at judy@brookes.com.

Other classes include "Discovery Music for Toddlers," "Scrapbook Workshops," "Karate/Jujitsu Youth," "Karate/Jujitsu Adult," "Exploring Music and Piano Prep," and "Little Linguists."

For more registration information go to: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec or call 240-777-6840.

MISSING ECHO?

If you don't get an *Echo* on time, please call Jane Stevenson, 301-229-3578, who is in charge of delivery. You can also pick up an extra copy at the postoffice by asking a clerk for one.

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



Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

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.

CLARA BARTON HOUSE TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Clara Barton National Historic Site is closed until further notice because of potential health and safety concerns related to the painting of the exterior wall of the west side of the building.

As a result, the Victorian-era holiday greeting card workshops scheduled for Nov. 24-25 and Dec. 1-2 have been cancelled.

Dust and fumes from paint stripping of the wall have migrated into the building itself, endangering the health and safety of both visitors and staff, according to the *Gazette*. Park officials say that the site will probably be closed until the maintenance project is complete, which is expected sometime in December.

To learn about the current status of the closure, please call 301-320-1410.

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FROM OUR POLICE REPRESENTATIVE:

Russell Hamill is the new Commander of the Bethesda District for the Montgomery County Police.

Commander Hamill asks that all citizens remove any items of value from their cars and lock them. There has been a spike in the number of larcenies from vehicles in the Bethesda District, although not in the Glen Echo area, he said.

The Commander also discussed the new uniforms the police now have: they are all black and are wash and wear.

--Norman Hudson-Taylor

CLASSIFIED ADS

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.

WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE DISCUSSING?

If you want to know what issues will be on the agenda at the monthly council meeting all you have to do is notify the clerk/treasurer that you want to be put on the agenda email list. Then you won't miss being present for a discussion you wish to participate in.

Just email the clerk/treasurer at town-hall@glenecho.org with your email address.

Beginner's Mind Yoga

**Beginner Level Sessions
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Friday mornings from 9:30-10:45 AM
The Church of the Redeemer - Lower level
6201 Dunrobbin Dr. Bethesda, MD 20818

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301-263-9644

PARK NEWS

Contracts for the fifth phase of the rehabilitation of Glen Echo Park could be let as early as the first week in December, according to Site Manager Kym Elder..

The projects in this phase are the restoration of the Crystal Pool façade, the first aid building and the caretakers cottage. It also calls for the demolition of the pool's old bathhouse. Ms. Elder said the structure is in danger of possibly falling down the hill and onto the parkway

Stabilization of the Minnehaha pier is also on the verge of completion.

The new Adventure Theatre site is now open. A new textile resident artist has taken up quarters on the second floor of the Yellow Barn.

There have been no new developments on the following projects: rebuilding the maintenance facility near Tulane Ave., improving the MacArthur Blvd. bike path, or the possibility of changing the park entrance configuration.

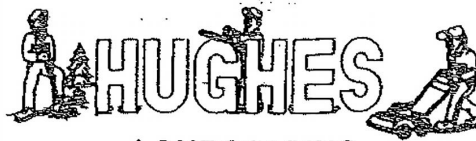
--Jerry Bodlander

BUSINESS REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Do you operate a business in the Town of Glen Echo?

If so, you need to register your business with the State Department of Assessment and Taxation <<http://www.dat.state.md.us>>. This department will assess the value of the personal property used by your business. You are required to pay personal property tax to the State, County, and Glen Echo on this assessed value. Corporations must file their charters with the state and renew these applications yearly when filing their returns

Landscape Design • Installation • Decks
Retaining Walls • Maintenance • Hauling • Gutters



LANDSCAPING

P.O. Box 498
Cabin John, Maryland 20818

John Hughes
301-589-6040

GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

EVENTS AT THE PARK

DANCES HELD WEEKLY IN THE RENOVATED SPANISH BALLROOM:

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. Forexperienced dancers. 7:30-10. \$9

ADVENTURE THEATRE

The Secret Garden

Through December 16

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

December 21-January 6

Weekends at 11:00 and 1:30

Tickets: \$12.00 Call 301-320-5331

THE PUPPET THEATRE

The Nutcracker

Through December 30

Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30

Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00

Tickets: \$8.00 Call 301-320-6668

WINTER WONDERLAND

Saturday, December 8

Performances, tours and a hot chocolate bar.

Stroll through an illuminated Glen Echo Park.

Browse and buy fine artworks at the Holiday Art Show

Create gifts at holiday-themed workshops throughout the weekend.

YELLOW BARN STUDIO & GALLERY

Individual and group art exhibits can be viewed every Saturday and Sunday from noon-5:00 p.m.

Exhibits change weekly.

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