

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



January 2001

COUNCIL RETHINKING SPEED BUMP PLACEMENT

By Anne Lewis and Carlotta Anderson

In a sometimes rancorous debate, the Glen Echo Town Council on Dec. 11 again took up the issue of traffic studies and speed calming measures that had seemed to be settled at the November meeting.

Princeton Ave. resident Betsy Carpenter asked why speed bumps were approved for Bryn Mawr Ave. before the town council received results from a new traffic survey it intends to conduct. She expressed concern that the action on Bryn Mawr might increase the traffic—and danger for children—on Princeton.

Because the mayor was absent, the town council did not take any official action, but there was a consensus at the end of the discussion that any speed calming measures should be delayed until a further study by traffic experts is completed.

Last August, the town council approved the installation of speed bumps on Bryn Mawr, Oberlin Ave. and lower Oxford Rd. In November, the council voted to have a traffic study carried out after those restrictive measures had been installed.

Councilman Maloy, who conducted a traffic survey earlier in town and made the initial recommendation for the Bryn Mawr speed bump, said the decision to approve the speed bump was taken because of requests by residents on Bryn Mawr. “We have been working on the traffic problem for a year, and while I am appreciative of a long, deliberative process, I need to respond to complaints,” he said.

An engineer’s study is not needed to determine that there is a traffic problem in town, Councilman Maloy said. While his use of the word “consensus” to describe the support for the action on Bryn Mawr was challenged by other members of the council, he defended the action, saying speed bumps should be tried out. They are not expensive to install and can be removed easily if they prove to be unwanted or ineffective, he said.

Betsy Carpenter said she just wanted to be sure that

—continued on page 3

IF THERE’S SNOW...

Be sure to park vehicles off the roads if possible and only on the MacArthur Blvd. side of University Ave. to enable snow plows to do their most effective work...

Be sure to shovel off the walkway in front of your house to enable pedestrians to use it. Quite a number of residents neglected to do this after the December snowfall...

THE ECHO

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you to Carlotta Anderson, editor of *The Echo*, for helping me find my missing cat, "Stripey" (aka "Mini"). She turned up in Cabin John on Dec. 4, and was kindly taken in by the Rojas family, having somehow made her way north along MacArthur Blvd., where she survived out in the cold and damp for two weeks.

Finally a neighbor in Cabin John told Marie and Thomas Rojas, 7513 MacArthur Blvd., that he was about to call the humane society to have this stray cat removed. Instead, the Rojas came and took her in and were all set to adopt her when they happened to see the notice in *The Echo* about a missing kitty while they were visiting Dan and Constance Macy, who live on the corner of Bryn Mawr and University.

So at last the cat is back. When I told my son Rob, in Japan, that she'd been found, he said, "It sounds like a great community there." It is!

Trina Carter
32 Wellesley Circle

CORRECTION

In last month's Council Notes, it was reported that Councilman Tim Maloy was going to Ireland for six months and that he would resign from the Centennial Committee. Councilman Maloy actually said he would be there only half a month and that he was dropping his chairmanship of the committee only temporarily. We apologize for the error.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 8—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

SPEED BUMPS (FROM PAGE 1)

any study of the impact of speed bumps would include all streets that might be affected.

Councilman Michael Brintnall, who said he had never favored speed bumps except perhaps on Oxford, said it was naïve for the town to make traffic decisions "willy nilly." In his opinion, "we have made an honest mistake by approving speed bumps for one street without further information."

Mayor Debbie Beers, who was ill the night of the meeting, later objected to the characterization of the decision as "willy nilly." She said a significant number of Bryn Mawr residents had requested the Bryn Mawr speed bump last March and no opposition had been voiced. "The process was not that different from the way the county does it, on petition from citizens living on that street," she said. "I think the process was long considered and was implementing recommendations from the engineer's specifications.

"In my mind, the issue was already approved and the question is only which bid to accept," she said.

Not at issue were the speed calming measures on Oxford. An incremental approach has been used on Oxford, with extra and larger signs used as a first resort. Bid specifications have gone out on installing the speed bumps or raised crosswalks.

CABIN JOHN BRIDGE CLOSED THIS SUMMER

By Carlotta Anderson

The one-lane Union Arch Bridge from MacArthur Blvd. into Cabin John will be closed for four to five months this summer for repairs. All efforts will be made to minimize vehicle and pedestrian inconvenience, according to Dave McGregor, Chief of Planning and Engineering at the Washington Aqueduct Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Work is in progress to quarry stones and cut them to replicate the red sandstone blocks on the parapet walls of the 1861 bridge, 500 of which must be replaced. They are being stockpiled in the storage yard of the Corps of Engineers near Sibley Hospital.

Once all the stones have been delivered, the second stage of repairs will commence. This is planned for the period after schools have let out. Double shifts and night time work will help reduce the closure period as much as possible, Mr. McGregor said.

The Cabin John Parkway will also be closed from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. for safety reasons while work is underway on the bridge above it.

Because the bridge is so narrow, parapet walls on both sides must be removed. For safety and liability reasons, access to the bridge will be denied to pedestrian and bicycle traffic as well as vehicles. Mr. McGregor said the Corps recognizes that there is no easy short detour for these users, and "we are struggling with some method" to facilitate travel between Cabin John and Glen Echo.

Meanwhile, work on the deteriorating aqueduct under MacArthur Blvd. is underway and scheduled to be finished the middle of May. The conduit is being water-blasted, after which reinforcing mesh is installed and the pipes are lined with a type of concrete called gunnite because it is shot through the pipes with a sort of gun. The work extends from the parking lot at Old Anglers' Inn to Brookmont.



Eleanor

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SHIMIZUS RETURN TO TOWN

By Susan Grigsby

Local traffic was rerouted on Nov. 30 when the moving vans filled narrow Bryn Mawr Ave. as Holly and the Shimizu children moved back to Glen Echo. For the past four years Holly was Managing Director of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Va.

Holly has been appointed Executive Director of the U. S. Botanic Garden by the architect of the U.S. Capitol. She is the first woman to be named director. From 1988 to 1996, Holly was the Botanic Garden's assistant executive director and chief horticulturist. She is also a host of the PBS television's "Victory Garden" program. She will continue this job, which has made her and the role of the U.S. Botanic Garden in horticulture well known beyond the gardening and plant world.

The plant world refers to Holly as an herb guru. She was curator of the national herb garden at the U.S. National Arboretum from 1980-1988 and honorary president of the Herb Society of American from 1994-1997. Both the Capitol Architect and Holly hope to have the Botanic Garden not only serve Congress but become one of the premier public gardens in America.

Glen Echo, too, has been the recipient of the Shimizu's expertise. Osamu and Holly were part of the Tree Committee that helped to buy and install trees at the town hall, in the town park and as part of the landscaping along MacArthur Blvd.

Their children, Bevan, 16, and Alexa, 13, have returned to their friends in the town where they grew up and have brought home their dog, Petey, 7, a Jack Russell terrier. Bevan will be attending Landon School and Alexa will be at Holton Arms.

Having the Shimizus part of our community again is a wonderful way to close an old era and welcome a new one.

NEWLYWEDS IN TOWN

Nick Manatos of 6006 Bryn Mawr Ave. was married to Despina Marousis on July 22 in Toms River, N.J. Both are now Glen Echo residents. Various members of the Manatos family have lived at the Bryn Mawr address for many years.

Despina is a teacher at Cabin John Middle School in Potomac. She received her BA and MA degrees from American University and an additional MA degree from Johns Hopkins University.


Nick, who is an account manager for Rational Software in McLean, graduated from Walt Whitman High School and received a BA degree from Princeton University in The Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Congratulations to you both!

VICKI HEWITT ART DISPLAYED AT YELLOW BARN, LIBRARY

A painting by Vicki Hewitt, a Walt Whitman 11" grader, was exhibited last month at the Sixth Annual Members of the Yellow Barn Gallery Juried Show. "Reclining Nude" was one of the 40 works chosen by juror Bonny Lundy, an art instructor at Glen Echo Park, from among 75 paintings submitted by the Gallery's 300 members.

Vicki has also just completed a large mural of children's fairy tales on a wall outside the children's library at the Little Falls library. The work was commissioned to commemorate the library's 40 years. Susannah Fry, a Walt Whitman graduate, worked with Vicki on the mural.



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PET OWNERS MUST REGISTER ANIMALS WITH COUNTY NOW

Now that Montgomery County has taken over animal control matters in Glen Echo, town residents must register their pets with the county. Those who have already paid the licensing fees in Glen Echo, which were due Aug. 31, will be reimbursed by the town.

The town is no longer providing free rabies vaccinations.

County pet registration applications are available from a veterinarian or by calling 301-279-1249 to request an application. A current rabies vaccination certificate good for at least 60 days from the date the application is mailed must be included, as well as a check or money order payable to Montgomery County, Md. for the license fee.

A Summary of County and State Animal Control Laws was delivered to each household in Glen Echo in December.

COUNTY WANTS IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY CENTER RENOVATION

Two public meetings to be held this month will consider possible construction and renovations at the Clara Barton Community Center. The county Dept. of Public Works and Transportation is seeking public input on these matters.

One possibility is adding a building to house a gymnasium. Another is opening up the second story of the main building, which was boarded up because of asbestos contamination.

Because adding facilities is expected to increase traffic, a proposal to change the center's entrance to the current entrance of the tennis courts, playing field, and playground at the Cabin John end of the Union Arch Bridge. Such a road might then loop around to meet the current 75th St. entrance, which would then become an exit, with additional parking along the way.

Funds have already been allocated by the county Dept. of Public Works and Transportation to study these possibilities. Construction would begin at the earliest in six years.

The meetings will be held at the center on Jan. 9 and Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. The latter meeting will be part of the regular meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Trees may be put out for the yard waste collection every Wednesday.

MARYLAND WILL CHANGE VOTING SYSTEM

By Carlotta Anderson

Although Maryland had a very low record of spoiled ballots in the November election, the state has announced plans to find a replacement for the 20-year-old punch card ("butterfly") balloting system which was used by Glen Echo residents. The punch card system is used by 37 percent of the precincts in the U.S.

Under consideration by a state voting systems task force is a screen-type system, much like the ATM version, according to Stewart Harvey, Administrative Specialist to the Montgomery County Supervisor of Elections. The plans to change the statewide voting system began before the elections and a report to the governor is due Feb. 9.

Getting a new standardized system was necessary because it has become difficult to get parts for the older machines. With the screen-type system, the voter can review his or her vote and change it. Until a button is pressed to cast the vote, nothing is recorded.

There were no problems here with the chads which beset the Florida balloting process and delayed the presidential election results. The local machines used a die-cut punch that "knocks the chad right out," said Mr. Harvey. If the punch is not lined up exactly with a name, it doesn't work.

In the November election, the county recorded 0.3 percent blank ballots, and 0.6 percent overvoted ballots (voting twice).

Long time residents may remember that before the punch card system, voters at the local precinct entered a cubicle, closed the curtain and pulled down the lever of a large machine. The vote was recorded inside that machine when the voter pulled the curtain to exit. Election judges stood behind the machines and recorded the results, which were then recounted by hand the next day. In contrast, punch cards are counted by running them through a computer. The lever-type machines were also replaced because repairs were more expensive than changing to a more efficient system.

BURNED-OUT STREET LIGHT?

If you see a burned-out street light, you can report it to Pepco by calling 202-833-7500 and giving the location and, preferably, the pole number. You should also note whether it is a wooden or metal pole.

If the problem is a burned-out bulb, the light will be replaced within 72 hours, Pepco says. If it is a wiring problem, allow 7-10 working days.

PLAYGROUP HELD AT HALL EVERY WEDNESDAY P.M.

A playgroup/parents get-together for young children is held at the Glen Echo Town Hall every Wednesday afternoon from 4:00-5:30 p.m. No reservation is necessary; participants simply have to show up with a toy to share.

A parent or guardian must supervise their child the entire time and sign a statement releasing the town from any liability.

The meetings are primarily for Glen Echo residents but are open to all.

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Thursday, Jan. 4, 7:00-10:00 p.m. American Indian Inter-Tribal Council meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 10., 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Welcome to Washington International meeting with slide presentation/talk by William Offutt

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sumner Garden Club

Sunday, Jan. 21, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Folklore Society Family Dance

Every Wednesday, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Young Children's Playgroup

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

TOWN HOLIDAY PARTY VERY WELL ATTENDED

A good many hungry residents of all ages turned up for the Holiday Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning, Dec. 16.

They conversed with their neighbors and met new ones at tables filled with plates of pancakes, sausages, bagels, smoked salmon, fresh pineapple and strawberries, orange juice and coffee.

The party was organized by Clerk/Treasurer Betsy Platt with assistance from Anne Lewis, George Borsari, and Phyllis Fordham. Stacey Malmgren, Madeleine Carter, Michele Wells and Jamie and Hannah Platt helped clean up. Jim Anderson and Tom Helf helped make pancakes.

BLOOD DRIVE JANUARY 16

The American Red Cross has put out an emergency call for donations of all blood types. Blood is currently being rationed.

The Red Cross will conduct a blood drive on Tuesday, Jan 16, from 2:00-8:00 p.m., at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 5500 Massachusetts Ave., near the intersection with Westbard Ave.

Those who are 17 years of age or older, weigh 110 pounds or more, and have not donated whole blood within 56 days prior to this date are eligible.

To schedule an appointment call Dan Bella at 301-949-5317.

ANOTHER BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive is scheduled at the Clara Barton Community Center (75th St. & MacArthur) in Cabin John, MD on Sunday, Feb 11th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

However, the Red Cross needs at least 65 names of probable donors before they will agree to hold the event. If you are inclined to donate blood, please send your name as soon as possible to Larry Heflin 301-229-4674 (h), lhheflin@juno.com. Please give Larry your name, address, phone number and e-mail address.

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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Michele Wells's,
6106 Bryn Mawr Ave.*

Wednesday, Jan 17, 8:00 p.m.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—Historic Glen Echo claw-footed iron bathtub, exc. cond., 25"x60", porcelain interior, exterior painted light gray, includes old plumbing fixtures. \$350. Call 301-229-2213.

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.

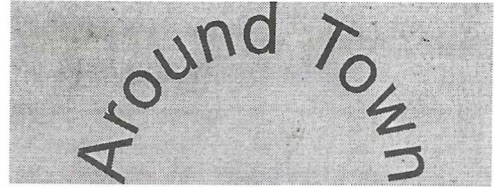
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A **new playground** has been constructed below the tennis courts near the Union Arch Bridge in Cabin John, *The Village News* reports. It includes "fanciful towers, bridges, slides and ladders...where once a lonely seesaw and jungle gym sat"...

The Cabin John paper also reports that the county has decided to **repave both the bicycle path along MacArthur Blvd.** and the boulevard itself, either after the work on the conduit is finished, around May, 2001, or after the work on the Union Arch Bridge is finished...

The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate last month passed Cong. Connie Morella's legislation to extend the **C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission** for 10 years. The current authority for this citizens' commission expires in January, 2001. It was first established in 1971 by the legislation which created the C&O Canal National Historical Park...

FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL CANCELLED By Anne Lewis

The highly popular Washington Folklife Festival that brings hundreds of performers and visitors to Glen Echo Park has been cancelled for the year 2001, according to Karen Pittleman, site manager for Glen Echo Park.

The Washington Folklore Society, sponsor of the annual two-day event, decided it did not have enough volunteer help to both clean out the Society's storage place underneath the Spanish Ballroom as a prerequisite to restoration of the area and also stage the festival. It is having trouble finding enough volunteers for the work.

The clean up is going slowly, Ms. Pittleman told the Glen Echo Town Council on Dec. 11, because every item is being evaluated. "One man's trash is another man's treasure," she commented. The cancellation also jeopardizes the Irish Folk Festival, scheduled for the weekend before the Folklife Festival (always the first weekend in June). The two festivals traditionally have shared tents and other setups.

Ms. Pittleman said the Folklore Society does plan to stage a night of performances on the Saturday of what would have been the festival weekend. It also has discussed a series of weekend performances during the summer at Glen Echo Park, but no final decision has been made.

GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

ADVENTURE THEATRE

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Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$5.00 Call 301-320-5331

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Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00

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OFFICIAL PROVIDES TIMETABLE FOR PARK RENOVATIONS

By Anne Lewis

The good news from Glen Echo Park is that restoration has been completed on the rest rooms, Karen Pittleman, the park's site manager told the town council last month.

She said that additions to the support area behind the ballroom stage area will begin in March and be finished by September, allowing the Puppet Theater to move into that area. This will allow renovation of all of the Spanish Ballroom to be done at the same time.

The north Arcade building will be demolished after Labor Day. At that time, new facilities for the Park Police will be finished at Turkey Run in Virginia, and the police will be moving out of the Arcade area.

A final plan for Glen Echo Park has been delayed from January until February, Ms. Pittleman said, because of the need to respond to the many comments received.

Councilman Norman Bernhardt suggested that the Oxford Rd. traffic be solved by widening the exit from the park to include both entrance and exits lanes, thereby eliminating much traffic from the lower part of Oxford. Ms. Pittleman said that idea had not been considered and would have to be in writing.

DANCES

Every Friday, traditional country dances
Every Saturday, swing dancing, 9:00-midnight
Every Sunday, contras, square and folk dances
Sunday afternoon tea dances, 3:30-6:00:

First & third Sundays, waltzes,

Second Sundays, western swing dances

Fourth Sundays, cajun and zydeco

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